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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

January 1, 1997 Volume 54, No. 1

REV. JERRY ZEHR IS ON SABBATICAL AND FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS NOT!

Rev. Jerry Zehr is officially on sabbatical now from January 1 - February 28. This week he is spending some time in Indianapolis using the resources of the library and bookstore at Christian Theological Seminary. The second half of January he will be attending a workshop at the Crystal Cathedral in California. We have also heard there are golf courses in California so it wouldn't be surprising if Jerry also sharpens some of his skills in that area as well.

Meanwhile "back at the ranch", ministry at First Christian goes forward. Our elders will be meeting in January and February to develop a plan for discerning our mission and vision for the rest of the century (how's that for a big dream). When Jerry returns the elders and board and you, the congregation, will work out our call, our hopes for the next few years.

The regular programs of the church will continue and Rev. Diane Zehr will be filling the pulpit while Jerry is away.

We look forward to Rev. Zehr's return and renewal!

TO: COMMITTEE CHAIRS

If you have not turned in your revised budgets for 1997 to Diane Johnson, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

As I was growing up I lived two doors from a railroad yard. At all times of the day and night trains roared through or came to screeching halts on the tracks so they could refuel or unload their cargos. We got used to the sounds and barely noticed them even in the wee hours of the morning.

But there was a rule we followed - or at least we were supposed to. NEVER TRY TO JUMP ON BOARD A MOVING TRAIN. There were always horror stories told in our neighborhood about kids who did and were hurt or worse doing that.

Yet, here am I in this first week of January, trying to do just that - jump on board a moving ministry train. I already have a foot in some cars like education and fellowship, but now there are some other cars of the train that will need a hand (or a foot) as well.

I'll try to do that carefully so the train doesn't have to stop and no one gets hurt. We'll get used to the sounds of movement together. I pray we won't need to come to any screeching halts and the ministry we do will please God.

Staying On Track,

Diane

D.M.A. POTLUCK

The D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) group will have a potluck on Tuesday, January 7, 1997 at 12:00 noon at the church.

The program will be a surprise!!

1997 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have not picked up your 1997 offering envelopes in the Narthex of the church, you may pick them up yet this week. After that, you will have to make arrangements from the church office to receive yours. Thank you.

We will not be mailing them this year.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will have a **congregational meeting** on **this Sunday, January 5, 1997** at 9:30 a.m. to approve the budget for next year.

Hope you can be there.

Welcome to the following new members who joined First Christian on December 22, 1996: **Dawn Pierce,** 409 W. Maple Grove Avenue 46807. Phone: 744-2701. **Stephanie Stabler,** 4721 Arlington Avenue 46807. Phone: 744-0176. **Linda Deck and Tammy Deck,** 822 Rockhill 46802. Phone: 423-4544. **Jenny Zumwalt,** 7426 Cold Springs Blvd. 46825. Phone: 497-9109. **Kerry Grabowski,** 7426 Cold Springs Blvd. 46825. Phone: 497-9109.

New members on December 29, 1996:

Rick and Robin Evans. They have four children - Andy, Emily, Natalie and Olivia. Their address is: 4524 Lafayette Esplanade 46806. Phone: 744-0037. Welcome to all!

Joys & Concerns

Marvel Brickley has been moved to the Lutheran Home.

Rebecca Bowman is home from Parkview Hospital. **George Cole** is also at home.

Ed Hall will have surgery on January 3, 1997. Keep Ed and Rosalie in your prayers.

Congratulations to **Bill and Anne Scott** as their baby, Zachary Tyler was dedicated on Sunday, December 29.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Kathryn (Kate) Cullen** who died on December 24, 1996.

Are prayers are with **Roger and Anne Moll** and the family as Anne's father is ill.

Eileen Klepfer is recuperating at home after having bronchitis.

Anne Shirley is at Lindenview.

SERMON TITLE THIS SUNDAY

"There are no wishbones in heaven"

SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

YOUTH!!!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT LOCK-IN!

All 6th to 12th grade youth are wanted at an overnight lock-in to be held at the church on Friday night, January 10 at 8:00 p.m. through Saturday morning (the 11th) at 10:00 a.m.

Please bring a pillow, sleeping bag, and whatever else you need for overnights! Get plenty of rest the night before so you can **STAY AWAKE** to enjoy a great time with friends, food, games, movies, singing, prayer and a special time for planning **YOUTH SUNDAY.**

Any questions? Talk to Lori Crouter or Steve Vachon.

YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET THIS SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE CHURCH.

A BIG THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to the elders, diaconate and Sunshine Friends who assisted in delivering Poinsettias and other Christmas items to our sick and shut-ins.

We also wish to express our thanks to Kenneth and Elinor Place for their efforts as Sunshine Friends. They have asked to be replaced for this next year. Anyone seeking to serve the Lord in this manner, please contact George Bruckman at the church office.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(12-22)	221	$3,667.21	$3,991.00
Year-to-date	180	$187,027.71	$174,240.87

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Dorothy Green, Room 220-H
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Life Care Center, 1649 Spy Run Avenue 46805
Irene Kissinger, Room 32-1

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 416
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2
Ardith Wrisk, Room 101

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B
Golden Rose, Room 208-A

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Glenn & Lola Miller, 5410 Butterfield Drive 46835
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING JANUARY 5

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & George Bruckman
10:45 a.m. Charles McGrew & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m.
10:45 a.m.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

R. Church - M. Crouse
J. Ohneck - D. Keebortz
K. Blocher - T. Knuckles
K. Ohneck - M. Mullen

COMMUNION PREPARATION

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, JANUARY 6
7:00 p.m.Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7
12:00 noon D.M.A. Potluck
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8
7:00 p.m. Outer Limits LIFE Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
10:00 a.m. Best Seat In the House LIFE Group

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
8:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

JAN. 7-13

Noah Duncan(7), Ken Taylor(7), Steve Thieme(8), Joel Wilson(8), Megan McEvoy(8), Myrtle DeVinney(10), Scott Murray(10), Anorak Phomsoupha(10), Marjorie Ohr(11), Cortney Lyons(11), Deb Lehman(12), Greg Baitz(13), Jeff Murray(13)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

January 8, 1997 **Volume 54, No. 2**

GETTING READY FOR WORSHIP 3RD-5TH GRADERS

Each year we offer a time for our 3rd-5th graders to meet with an elder of the church and discover why we worship as we do at First Christian Church.

Until 3rd grade our children are in their own worship experiences for most of the service time (leaving after our Childrens' moment), but when they enter third grade, they begin to have the opportunity to worship with the whole community of Christians.

In order to prepare them for this we offer this 4 week experience where they can learn and ask questions about things like:

What is worship anyway?
Why do we take communion?
How do I decide what to give?
What do I listen for in the sermon?

At the end of those weeks, each child will be presented with a Bible from the church.

This year Eunice Conrad will be teaching this class each Sunday of February from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. during our regular worship hour.

Please register your child for this by calling the church office or Diane Zehr.

TO: COMMITTEE CHAIRS

If you have not turned in your revised budgets for 1997 to Diane Johnson, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

Here are just a few of the ways to serve God in 1997:

NURSERY NEIGHBORS

We need a few folks who will take some special care with our nursery. Making sure the toys are clean and unbroken, organizing the linens and change table, seeing that the room is attractive and clean are important ministries that need to occur. If you would like to make the churchs' ministries to our youngest more effective, contact Diane Zehr at 744-3239.

FOOD MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

The many people who receive food through the food bank of First Christian Church are blessed because of the volunteers who serve faithfully, giving of their time and energy! New volunteers are needed who can give two hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. twice per month.

Call Steve Vachon (home phone: 744-6161) if you have questions about volunteering.

SUNSHINE FRIENDS

What is a sunshine friend? How do you become one? What are the responsibilities? What are the benefits?

A sunshine friend is an extension of our church life to those who have been members for years, however, are unable to be at church for worship or any other activities. This service provides a personal tie for our "shut-ins". We ask that each volunteer visit with a shut-in once a month, be aware of any problems that may appear and relay this information to the church office, send birthday greetings when information is available, and other personal greetings.

Are you ready for something new in your life this year? Have you been questioning what you can do to refresh your life and feel closer to God? Did you resolve to become more involved with the church this year?

COME AND JOIN US AS A SUNSHINE FRIEND!!

EVANGELISM CALLING

Evangelism calling for First Christian means responding to first time visitors in Sunday morning worship by knocking on their door within 36 hours with a welcome, a loaf of bread, a brochure and brief conversation. Right now our calling teams are scheduled once a month and usually go calling on Monday evenings. We cannot over emphasize the importance of this basic evangelism effort and how rewarding it is to see visitors return and then commit their lives to Christ through First Christian Church. Is their a better way you could serve the church?

PLEASE COME AND HELP

The Worship Committee needs your help with the taking down and putting away the Christmas items. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. this Saturday, January 11. Thank you.

NEEDED.....WALK TO BETHLEHEM EVAULATIONS

Please turn in your evaluations for Walk to Bethlehem as soon as possible. So far only five have been returned and we need 25-30 if we are going to have substantial feedback.

The Committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 16, 1997. Your support of Walk to Bethlehem was tremendous and we would very much like to know how you felt about your participation. Thank you.

UPCOMING MEETINGS!

The **Administrative Committee** will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 1997 at 6:30 p.m.

The **Board of Trustees** will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 1997 at 7:30 p.m.

W.O.E. (Worship, Outreach & Service, and Evangelism) will meet on Tuesday, January 21, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

Joys & Concerns

Ed Hall's surgery has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled at a later date.

Ruth Truesdell is recovering from a heart attach and is in St. Joseph Medical Center.

Congratulations to **Paul and Mickieann Martz** who had a blessing of their wedding last Friday night at the church.

Anne Shirley is home from Lindenview.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Irene Kissinger** who died this week.

THANK YOU

We want to thank you for the surprise we had on Christmas Sunday when we received the beautiful poinsettia from the church and our 1997 church envelopes.

We want you to know it is still alive - a beauty to behold - it is such a bright red.

With God's love and yours it was a great gift.

Sincerely,
Don and Sarah Smith

YOUTH!!!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT LOCK-IN!

All 6th to 12th grade youth are wanted at an overnight lock-in to be held at the church on Friday night, January 10 at 8:00 p.m. through Saturday morning (the 11th) at 10:00 a.m.

Please bring a pillow, sleeping bag, and whatever else you need for overnights! Get plenty of rest the night before so you can **STAY AWAKE** to enjoy a great time with friends, food, games, movies, singing, prayer and a special time for planning **YOUTH SUNDAY.**

Any questions? Talk to Lori Crouter or Steve Vachon.

NO YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY!

A BIG THANK YOU!!

I would like to thank each of you who participated in the Angel Tree Project this year. It was extra special that the youth of our church were able to deliver the gifts and get to meet some of the kids that we were serving. When Jesus began his public ministry, he stood up in the synagogue to read the scriptures. He read the words of Isaiah (Isaiah 61:2) and after reading, he sat down and said to those in the synagogue, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:18-19). By doing these acts of kindness, we are doing the gospel. Please take a moment to read Isaiah's words and keep them in your heart. Prison ministry can be heartbreaking, yet God has anointed each of you to "bind up the brokenhearted," and so you do. Thank you for being obedient to our Lord and Savior.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(12-29)	187	$3,667.21	$5,849.12
Year-to-date	180	$190,694.92	$180,089.99

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Dorothy Green, Room 220-H
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 416
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2
Ardith Wrisk, Room 101

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B
Golden Rose, Room 208-A

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Glenn & Lola Miller, 5410 Butterfield Drive 46835
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING JANUARY 12

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Eunice Conrad & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. Ken Taylor & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. E. Yeoman, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, B. Smith

COMMUNION PREPARATION

T. Knuckles, C. Falbe, E. Yeoman

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ron & Caren Wise

CHURCH CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
8:00 p.m. Youth Lock-In

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
9:00 a.m. Worship Committee after Christmas Clean-Up

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. Administrative Committee
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
7:00 p.m. Outer Limits LIFE Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JANUARY -14-20

John Roush(14), Diane Zehr(15), Jeff Young(15), Michael Mullen(15), Melissa Chapin(15), Martha Bier(15), Calvin Jones(17), Jack Williams(17), Sue Brickley(18), David Alexander(19), Chip Olson(19), Mark Snyder(20)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

January 15, 1997 Volume 54, No. 3

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL SERVICE

WHEN: Sunday Evening, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Plymouth Congregational Church (West Berry and Fairfield).

The First Christian Church Family is invited to participate in an ecumenical service honoring the memory and dream of Martin Luther King Jr.

We hope to attend as a group representing our commitment as a church to the ministry of racial reconciliation in our community.

We will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. for a brief meditation and prayer and then caravan to Plymouth Congregational Church for the ecumenical service.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP CLASS FOR 3RD-5TH GRADERS LED BY EUNICE CONRAD FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23 - 10:45-11:45 A.M.

This week each family with 3rd-5th graders should have received a letter of invitation for your child to register to attend this class. Please call the church office or talk to Diane Zehr to let us know who will be attending.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

"By the way..." - How often we use that expression in conversation with another. Have you ever noticed it is often the real agenda on a persons heart that follows those words?

"By the way, I've been meaning to ask you if you did_____, if you could_____, if you thought_____, if you care that I_____."

"By the way, I need to talk to you about_____, did you know that_____"?

Monday mornings in a church office are busy. I'm guessing they are also busy in other offices as well. Phone calls, newsletters, staff meetings, yet it is the "by-the ways...", that show me where God is asking us to be present.

I guess my prayer for this week is that I can recognize the importance of the "by the ways" that come and really understand that they are really ON THE WAY to knowing God at work in our days.

On the way with you,

Diane Zehr

NEW YEAR PLAN

SPACE ALLOCATION:

We have created a storage space. Perhaps you have noticed a new storage enclosure on the west side of the church building. This has been added, as a part of the renovation program, to provide storage for large bulky items primarily used in the parking lot for youth summer activity.

These items are currently stored wherever there is room. However, a committee is being formed to review space allocation. We will survey areas being used and make suggestions for consolidation or elimination. This will be done with all functional committee members. You might say we are beginning our "spring" cleaning now!

JANUARY CHOIR PRACTICES

The choirs will practice on the following dates in January:

CHANCEL CHOIR - Saturday, January 18 at 1:00 p.m. The Chancel Choir will sing in both services on January 19.

CHAMBER SINGERS ONLY - Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m. The Chamber Singers will sing in both services on January 26.

THE CARILLON - meets Thursdays at 5:45 p.m.

Joys & Concerns

Ed Hall had surgery this week and is a patient at Parkview Hospital.

Ruth Truesdell is recovering from a heart attack and is in St. Joseph Medical Center.

Linda Deck's mother, Ilene Blauvelt, had surgery on Tuesday.

Donna McEvoy's brother from California is improving.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to **Roger and Anne Moll and family** in the recent death of Anne's father.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to **Bruce and Ruth Stone** in the recent death of Bruce's sister, **Ruth Yawn.**

YOUTH - THIS SUNDAY! MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE

The Youth Group will participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service. All youth who can participate, please be at the church at 5:55 p.m. this Sunday.

We will be back at the church by 9:00 p.m. Call Steve Vachon (744-6161) if you have any questions.

SERVING JANUARY 19

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ralph Church & Kathy Blocher
10:45 a.m. John Kelly & Dick Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Lehman, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Widmer, E. Yeoman

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

J. Church - S. Brey
K. Taylor - J. Young
G. Bruckman - L. Brey
A. Moll - D. Heimann

COMMUNION PREPARATION

T. Knuckles, C. Falbe, E. Yeoman

EVANGELISM CALLERS

K. Taylor & B. Smith

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

SUN., JAN. 19 CONTINUED
6:00 p.m. Meet at THE church to go to Martin Luther King Jr. Service at Plymouth which begins at 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
OFFICE CLOSED IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
1:30 p.m. Rachel Circle at the church
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Meeting

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
10:00 a.m. Best Seat in the House LIFE Group

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JANUARY 21-27

James Plummer(21), Daniel Auer(21), Jim Bushey(21), Charles Ewing(22), Harriett Cole(23), Delores Keebortz(23), Mimi Westerfield(24), Linda Stover(25), Sally Rudy(25), Janet Weicker(25), Marilyn Rieke(25), Dorothy Green(27), Karen Bushey(27)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *Tidings*

(Disciples of Christ)

January 22, 1997 Volume 54, No. 4

YOUTH SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2, 1997
WORSHIP SERVICES - 8:15 & 10:45 A.M.

The Youth Group at First Christian invites your presence and participation in a special worship focusing on the theme "Shadows of God."

The youth of the church wish to give thanks to God for the presence of the adults in their lives who, by their guidance, example, and provision, provide them a shadow of God's presence.

As the young people of the church begin to make the vocational decisions that will launch them into their adult lives as Disciples of Christ, they are blessed by those who welcome them to walk close by, as close as their shadow.

Come, expecting to experience in a fresh way the calling of God both to **LEAD** others and to **FOLLOW** those who lead us in God's family.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP CLASS FOR 3RD-5TH GRADERS
LED BY EUNICE CONRAD
FEBRUARY 2, 9, 16, 23 - 10:45-11:45 A.M.

This week each family with 3rd-5th graders should have received a letter of invitation for your child to register to attend this class. Please call the church office or talk to Diane Zehr to let us know who will be attending.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

First Christian Church has always had a heart for mission. That is clear to the community in Fort Wayne as they see us lead the way with community projects such as the Futuring Conference, the Food Bank, the Baby's Closet, our Jail Ministry, and our participation in Associated Churches. It is clear to the larger Disciple church as we give 10% of our tithes and offerings to Basic Mission Finance.

But sometimes, I think, we aren't as alert at being self-aware of what we are doing to serve God in the world. Lent is a season of self-examination.

That is why we are planning a Lenten emphasis called "500 Miles of Mission." Beginning February 12 (Ash Wednesday), each time our congregation gathers for worship (the 6 Sundays of Lent), we will have a chance to record the work we do in service of God. For each hour we spend volunteering at a hospital or Matthew 25 center, the Food Bank, Baby's Closet, visiting the homebound, or even being at a meeting for the church, we are asking you to fill out a mile marker card that you will find in your pews each week.

As a part of our Lenten discipline, we, as a congregation, want to become more self-aware of how we are giving ourselves away for God.

I personally believe if we are accurately reporting all our mission gifts, we'll go a lot further than 500 miles and as we said in our fall stewardship campaign, in that case "God is the Winner."

Start noticing what you do during the course of a week that will qualify for a mile of mission.

On the way with you,

Diane Zehr

UPDATE ON OUR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The Parlor has been painted and new chandeliers installed. New carpeting is on the way for parlor, board room, and library. After the carpeting is installed, our new parlor furnishings will be delivered.

As far as the new bathrooms go, Hoeppner Construction has poured the concrete and we are underway for that construction project.

Before the new floor is put down in fellowship hall, we are checking the condition of our underground pipes. If any needs for repair are found, we want to address those before putting down the new floor.

Our new storage building has been put in place behind the church. It has already suffered a little damage but will be repaired and the walls reinforced when the door is put on.

JANUARY CHOIR PRACTICES

The choirs will practice on the following dates in January:

CHAMBER SINGERS ONLY - Saturday, January 25 at 1:00 p.m. The Chamber Singers will sing in both services on January 26.

THE CARILLON - meets Thursdays at 5:45 p.m.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Ray Stover for helping us keep the walkways clear in all of our "weather."

Also, a big thank you to Ray and Linda Stover for their help with entering data into the new computer program!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 28 - March 1, 1997
at Camp Barbee
"Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Any questions, call Sue Brey at 447-3540.

Joys & Concerns

Ed Hall did well in surgery last Thursday and is in Parkview.

Our prayers are with **Ruth Ogles** and family in the recent death of Bob.

Ruth Truesdell has gone home from the hospital with some additional medication for her heart.

Megan McEvoy had knee surgery on Tuesday.

Vince Wells had a heart catherization on Tuesday.

Ilene Blauvelt has gone home from Parkview Hospital.

Mildred Sarrazin is a patient at Parkview Hospital.

Thelma Onion and **Donna McEvoy-Heimann** are in California with Donna's brother, Bob Onion's family as they attend the funeral for Bob.

Betty Grimm's 93 year old mother fell and broke her hip and had surgery last Friday.

We have received a postcard from **Ed and Sue Allen** who are enjoying walks on the beach in Florida every day. **Ed** is doing quite well.

This Saturday a memorial service for **Anne Moll's father** will be held in Jackson, Mississippi. The whole family will be attending.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Sunday, January 26 is **SOUP-er Bowl Sunday.** The Food Bank Ministry asks the Super Bowl party-goers of First Christian Church to bring one or more cans of soup with them to the Super Bowl party of their choice, as a way of visibly inviting others to support the ministry of the Food Bank, then bringing the soup (or any other nourishing food) to the church for distribution through the Food Bank. The volunteers of the Food Bank thank you for your support of this ministry.

D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) 1997 Mini-Schedule

February 4 - One more potluck lunch and then we hit the road. It's Valentine time so bring a white elephant or gag gift, or a comic Valentine. Also, bring a favorite object or hobby example for "Show & Tell."

March 11 - Yes, this is the 2nd Tuesday! Lunch ($7.00 each) at Botanical Gardens and then a walk through the "Promise of Spring" show. Reservation deadline is March 7.

April 1 - This is no joke.....we're on the road to Columbia City to tour the REMC facility. Lunch location and timing details later.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

During the month of February, Evelyn Yeoman, our contact person for the Prayer Chain, will be in Florida.

Jean McGrew has agreed to take over the Prayer Chain as contact person in Evelyn's absence. Jean's phone number is: 637-5809 and will be happy to begin the chain as needed.

WHAT IS D.M.A.???
AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Perhaps some of our new members, friends and visitors that are on our mailing list are not acquainted with the church group of senior citizens.

This group was established many, many years ago and all visitors, friends or members that may be 55 years of age or older may join. The group initially selected an identity of D.M.A. which is an abbreviation for Don't Mention Age. This organization meets the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings sometimes begin with a potluck luncheon at the church, and have additional activity after lunch. This may consist of a "field trip" to a celebrated location in Fort Wayne, or a special guest speaker at the luncheon.

The January meeting had approximately 24 people attend and following the luncheon all were asked to join a car pool and follow Charles and Jean McGrew for a surprise journey. The tour was to the Hoosier Window Factory located at the former International Harvester Plant on Pontiac Street.

The February meeting will feature a guest speaker and in March they will have the annual visit to the Botanical Gardens.

Perhaps there are some of you would would like to share in this activity! If so, please mark your calendar on the first Tuesday of the month. If you are in need of transportation, please call the church office a few days before the meeting.

In preparation for **Youth Sunday,** the youth group will meet at the following times. If you cannot attend at any one of these, please call Amy Vachon at 744-6161.

Saturday, January 25 - 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
January 26 - during Sunday School hour - 9:30 a.m.
February 1 - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

SEWING GROUP NEWS

The Sewing Group will meet in the Conference Room on Tuesday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m. Only the simplest sewing skills needed. Come join us for a morning of fun and fellowship. Your help is sorely needed!

SERVING JANUARY 26

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & Anne Moll
10:45 a.m. Charles McGrew & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, S. Brickley, L. McFarland, E. Yeoman, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION

M. Crouse, Heimann's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Eve Gorman & Marlene Crouse

MONDAY, JANUARY 27
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
10:00 a.m. Best Seat in the House LIFE Group

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
2:30 p.m. Youth Group

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
1:00 p.m. Chamber Sings Practice Only
3:00 p.m. Youth Group

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
9:30 a.m. Youth Group
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 4

Bill Kerley(28), Wade Smith(28), Mike Walsh(28), Martha Warner(30), Kathy Blocher(31), Bobbie Lindsay(1), Jim Sands(1), Judy Mey(2), Kristen Geroff(3), Patricia Erdly(3), Ruth Yentes(4), Wanda Hamm(4), Eric Mory(4)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

January 29, 1997 Volume 54, No. 5

YOUTH SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 2, 1997
WORSHIP SERVICES - 8:15 & 10:45 A.M.

The Youth Group at First Christian invites your presence and participation in a special worship focusing on the theme "Shadows of God."

The youth of the church wish to give thanks to God for the presence of the adults in their lives who, by their guidance, example, and provision, provide them a shadow of God's presence.

As the young people of the church begin to make the vocational decisions that will launch them into their adult lives as Disciples of Christ, they are blessed by those who welcome them to walk close by, as close as their shadow.

Come, expecting to experience in a fresh way the calling of God both to **LEAD** others and to **FOLLOW** those who lead us in God's family.

ASH WEDNESDAY
OBSERVANCE - FEBRUARY 12, 1997

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Soup and sandwich supper.
7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Service

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

The last two Sundays we have been hearing the stories of two Biblical friends, Samuel and Jonah, who heard the call of God in their lives and responded in very different ways.

Samuel was quite willing to do the bidding of God to be the one to search for the one whom God would anoint King of Israel.

Jonah ran as far and as fast as he could from what God wanted him to do - go to Assyria and preach repentance.

The rest of us probably fall somewhere between those extremes.

Does God ask something of you in these days?

- To pray for and encourage your leaders as Samuel did.
- To go to an enemy and share that the way God can make a difference in their lives - as Jonah went to the Assyrians.

The Bible tells us we don't even have to like it. Samuel was confused by God's call at first. Jonah was just plain mad about it. The important thing is:

WILL YOU DO IT?
OR
ARE YOU ALREADY DOING IT?

God is looking for a few good people who will name the name of the Lord to our world.

As you live your call, I pray for you to have the courage to name why you do what you do and if you can't call it "in God's will" - repent, for the beginning is near.

On the way with you.

Diane Zehr

P.S. Thanks go to Ralph Church, George Bruckman and Pat Mullen for assisting me with the pastoral responsibilities of leading worship while Jerry is away.

In preparation for **Youth Sunday,** the youth group will meet at the following times. If you cannot attend at any one of these, please call Amy Vachon at 744-6161.

January 31, 1997 - Friday, 7:00 p.m.

February 1 - Saturday, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need your help! On Thursday, February 6, 1997 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. I will be re-organizing the church library, and your help is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Steve Vachon

THANK YOU

I wish to thank all of the teachers who helped make the trip to Science Central last Sunday possible!

We had 19 children who attended!

Rev. Diane Zehr

WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 28 - March 1, 1997
at Camp Barbee
"Laughter is the Best Medicine"

Any questions, call Sue Brey at 447-3540.

Joys & Concerns

Ed Hall is a patient at Parkview Hospital.

Our prayers are with **Thelma Onion** and **Donna McEvoy-Heimann** as Thelma's sister, (Donna's aunt) passed away last week.

Our prayers are with **Bob Smith's grandson, Adam Skolnic** who is in Riley Hospital, and will be facing surgery as infection has now set in after third degree burns.

Congratulations to **Erin and Andy Brosey** in the birth of their daughter, **Lauren Estelle.** She was born on January 18 and weighed 8 1/2 pounds!

This week our senior pastor, **Jerry Zehr,** is attending a conference at the Crystal Cathedral in California. He will be returning to Indiana on February 4 and prepare for his week at the Monastery in Kentucky which will be February 9-16. Please pray that God will speak to him and encourage him that we (with Jerry's leadership) may be led by God's light in ministry in Fort Wayne.

Rev. Jerry Zehr will return to the pulpit on March 2 and to the office on March 3.

FIRST TIME VISITORS IN WORSHIP ON JANUARY 26, 1997

Robert Grove, 6821 Baer Road 46809.

"500 MILES OF MISSION"

Are you interested in obtaining information concerning retirement homes and the facilities offered??

We see a need for this information to be available to all of us in our immediate future and near future for many in our congregation.

This will be identified as part of "500 Miles of Mission", and we are asking those who may be interested in assisting with this endeavor to please contact George Bruckman at the church office or at his home.

D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) 1997 Mini-Schedule

February 4 - One more potluck lunch and then we hit the road. It's Valentine time so bring a white elephant or gag gift, or a comic Valentine. Also, bring a favorite object or hobby example for "Show & Tell."

March 11 - Yes, this is the 2nd Tuesday! Lunch ($7.00 each) at Botanical Gardens and then a walk through the "Promise of Spring" show. Reservation deadline is March 7.

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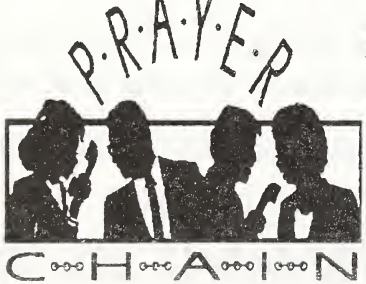

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

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Jean McGrew has agreed to take over the Prayer Chain as contact person in Evelyn's absence. Jean's phone number is: 637-5809 and will be happy to begin the chain as needed.

OUTREACH BUDGET UPDATE

The church once said, "The world is my parish" however, now seems to say my "parish is my world."

Many times we question about the distribution of our Outreach & Service budget. For the year ending December 1996 we have contributed $12,000 to Basic Mission Finance. This does not include our total Outreach & Service expenditures.

The monies are distributed in the following manner:

1) 32% - Christian Church in Indiana
2) 28% - Overseas and Homeland Ministry
3) 14% - Higher Education
4) 6% - National Benevolent Association
5) 20% - divided among 15 other Disciple activities

"Mission Imperatives" was a goal accepted by Disciples at the General Assembly in 1995. This program will be in process from 1996 to the year 2000. As Disciples we believe God's Mission for the church is to be and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our gifts will be channeled to that goal.

IMPRESS A TEEN - GO TO CHURCH

With all the talk of the need to instill a sense of values in young people and for positive role models, there is one simple positive step adults can take — go to church or another place of worship. Eight teens in 10 say they admire adults who do this. Only 13 percent say they are turned off by adults going to worship services, while 6 percent are indifferent to it.

Most impressed by adult churchgoing are young women and teens who live in the South. Not surprisingly, those young people who themselves have been to church recently welcome the company of adults at their place of worship. What is more, almost three in four teens who have not been to church admire adults who attend.

—Copied from Emerging Trends
Princeton Religion Research Center

YOU'RE INVITED

Tracy A. Critell and Robert J. Krayer request the honour of your presence at their marriage on Friday, February 21, 1997, five-thirty p.m. at First Christian Church.

SERVING FEBRUARY 2

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Kris Ohneck & Kathy Blocher
10:45 a.m. Ken Taylor & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, D. Lehman, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, B. Smith

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

R. Church - K. Bushey
J. Ohneck - S. Brickley
S. Hayes - C. Falbe
K. Blocher - J. Franklin

COMMUNION PREPARATION

M. Crouse, Heimann's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
2:30 p.m. Youth Group

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
12:00 noon D.M.A. Potluck
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
1:00 p.m. Library Re-organization
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 5-11

Anne Moll(7), Elinor Place(7), Larry Brey(7), Ruth Truesdell(8), Betty Harter(9), Susan Knuckles(9), Sharon Ellis(9), Kenneth Place(10), Cheri Tobias(11), Marvin Crouse(11), Kent Gaskill(11)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Tidings

February 5, 1997 Volume 54, No. 6

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
SOUP/SANDWICH SUPPER - 6:00-7:00 P.M.
SERVICE - 7:00 P.M.

The Lenten season will begin on Ash Wednesday, this year, February 12. It is the beginning of 40 days of Lent and includes 6 Sundays.

Lent has been, for the church, a time to take stock of our lives as Christians, to see if we are growing up in Christ. It is a time to prepare for the new life Easter promises as we ready ourselves for being made new by God.

Many of us choose a discipline of prayer or fasting or giving in some way that keeps us mindful of the sacrifice our Lord made for us.

This year on February 12 we'll serve a simple meal of soup and sandwiches between 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. You may come anytime during that hour as you can leave work. At 7:00 p.m. we'll gather in the sanctuary for a service of song, prayers, silence, scripture, and receiving the ritual of ashes placed on our foreheads remembering our earthliness as we celebrate Christs' divine gift of life.

Begin your own Lenten time with your community of faith!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

UPDATE ON THE MENTORING PROGRAM

For those of you readers who may not be acquainted with it the Mentoring Program is for young persons ready to consider baptism and church membership. We match each person (usually 6th-12th graders) with an adult member mentor. Together they meet weekly during the six weeks of Lent and grow in faith as they prepare for Easter baptism.

We are blessed to have Brenda Kelly coordinate this most important endeavor of the church. We are so grateful for the thorough and loving way she gives herself to the Mentor Program and each person involved in it. Next year during Lent we will be offering this experience once again.

Rev. Diane Zehr

CANDIDATE/MENTOR PROGRAM

As I looked over the list of young people that are attending church, forty-one had participated in the mentoring program. We are happy and excited that when our youth decided to make the commitment of confession of faith and baptism, they chose to do this by having a mentor to help them prepare for this commitment and the experience that the candidate/mentor program offers.

Last year the response was so heartwarming, that we had two programs. This year we do not have enough young people to start a program, so in view of this, I've asked for a sabbatical, just for 1997, and received this from our ministers with their support and understanding.

Diane and I are working on new and exciting material for 1998 and we are looking forward to working with the mentoring program next year.

We ask for your prayers and blessings for the program next year.

Yours in Christ,
Brenda Kelly

YOUTH GROUP - THIS SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 1997
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

OUTREACH BUDGET UPDATE - PART II

The week of January 29, 1997 carried a report of our outreach specifically as it related to Basic Mission Finance. The total funds for Outreach & Service in 1996 was $22,314.00 for the year.

Subtracting BMF giving of $12,000 indicates we donated an additional $10,314 to other areas that included Special Sundays, Associated Churches of Fort Wayne, Food Bank, Jail Ministry, Helping Hand, etc. Our total income for 1996 was $212,240; we are a tithing church; however God is looking for us to carry our burden to greater expectancies. Will you answer His call??

George Bruckman

CALLING ALL MEN

This year's Promise Keeper's Conference theme is, "The Making of a Godly Man." We have decided to go to the windy city this year for the annual conference. The Chicago site for Promise Keeper's is in Soldier Field on May 23-24. It promises to be a watershed time for all those who attend with a heart for God. To avoid burdening the church with the financial liability of this event we are asking all men and boys who wish to attend to purchase your tickets individually. We will travel together from the church on the afternoon of the 23rd and return on the evening of the 24th. You may call 1-800-888-7595 for reservations but be persistent, the lines are busy. If you are already receiving material in the mail from Promise Keepers you may call 1-800-265-6023 to register. **IMPORTANT if you decide to go, and after you register, let Brian Prechtl know so we can arrange housing.** Time is limited therefore let's impose a church deadline of February 15 so that we can determine how many rooms to book. Please pray on this matter and consider how God may be working in your life to make you more of a Godly Man. Perhaps you want to experience this event with your son or your father. Perhaps you just want to experience the sound of 70,000 men lifting their voice in song and feel the power of the holy spirit inhabiting their praises. However God is calling you, I encourage you to join us for a meeting with Him.

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Prechtl

YOU'RE INVITED

Tracy A. Critell and Robert J. Krayer request the honour of your presence at their marriage on Friday, February 21, 1997, five-thirty p.m. at First Christian Church.

SERVING FEBRUARY 9

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Eunice Conrad & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. John Kelly & Dick Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Lehman, M. Mullen, J. Ott, K./E. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Widmer, D. Heimann

COMMUNION PREPARATION

M. Bier & Vandergriff's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. Administration Committee
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
6:00 p.m. Soup and Sandwich Supper
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
5:45 p.m. Carillon

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 12-18

Bill DeVinney(12), Charles McGrew(12), Chris McDougle(12), Virgil Buchanan(13), Kevin Tobias(13), Robert Neal(14), Merle Grimm(14), Sara Glasgow(14), Debbie Thieme(15), Charles Hatten(15), Martha Hunt(16), Karen Doehrman(16), Jean Sheets(18)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Tidings

February 12, 1997 Volume 54, No. 7

God Will Win the Race.....

500 MILES FOR MISSION

Please join in our Outreach campaign "500 Miles for Mission". All it requires is that you fill out the form found in the pews giving your name, the type of mission (service) activity and the time given. These forms will be placed in the offering plates each Sunday. You can also call the church office and give this information. For each hour of mission activity we will place a symbolic red brick on the walls of the sanctuary to begin building our road symbolizing all the hours of service this congregation provides.

This will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter Sunday. Our goal is to complete 500 miles which is equal to 500 hours of mission activities. Examples are volunteering at one of the hospitals, Matthew 25, Food Bank, Art Museum, etc. It could also be driving a friend or neighbor to the Doctor's office, doing their grocery shopping, or other errands if they are unable.

If you have any questions, please call Donna McEvoy-Heimann, Charlie Hatten or Diane Zehr. Let's follow the example that Christ showed us. We have 40 days to have this road completed, so let's get started!!!!!

(See sample on Page 7)

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

I've been talking with so many of you over the past weeks about the ministry with children we share at First Christian Church. Indeed, we can be proud of what we have done over the last five years creating a new learning environment in the Upper Room, developing a core team of teachers who pass on the faith in vital and engaging ways, initiating a Children and Worship time so young children can worship in ways that are meaningful to them. Our Walk to Bethlehem and Vacation Bible Schools are highlights of our year and the Mentoring Program has 41 graduates.

I believe God has called us into these ministries and we are even beginning to get glimpses of what there may be yet in store for us to accomplish.

Here are some seeds that are currently being considered for planting:

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTREACH FOR KIDS - What if we took a summer program of Faith and Fun to two of our small neighborhood parks? We could provide some constructive summer fun in the sun and in the Son. Would you have some time to volunteer this summer?

LITERACY PROGRAM - What if some of our folks volunteered to read 1 hour a week for 1-3 children on a regular basis? We are considering becoming a site for such a venture. Would you be interested in being a reader?

IMPACT LEGISLATION FOR CHILDREN - What if we made a Rapid Response notice for those who wanted to support legislation aimed at bettering the world for our children's sakes? Would you take time during coffee hour to fill out a postcard or send an e-mail to your congressmen and women?

There are so many ways we can stand for our children. Following are a few thoughts about how we can even do that in worship. It's from First United Methodist Church in Byron, Michigan.

- Remember the commitment we made as a congregation at the dedication of the children in our midst.
- Hand offering plates to children, not over their heads.
- During children's time, laugh with the children, not at them.
- Understand when parents need to take younger children to child care and then return to worship.
- Have patience with the learning process; we are all children of God.

(Continued on Page 3)

HERE TO (OTHER) ZEHR CONTINUED

- During greeting time, greet children as well as their parents.
- Ensure that children have a bulletin of their own.
- Invite a child with whom you are acquainted to sit with you during worship on occasion, even when the children's parents are present.
- Compliment children who have listened attentively during the service.

Let's keep our ministry with children alive and growing. God is counting on us.

On the way with you,

Diane Zehr

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with the family of **Rebecca Bowman** who passed away last Monday, February 3. Services were held in Richmond, Indiana on Friday, February 7. Her husband, Clifton, still resides in Richmond near their daughter.

Earl Plummer continues to struggle with inner ear problems. Keep him and Ruth in your prayers.

Eileen Klepfer is back in the hospital with pneumonia in Florida. She is receiving breathing treatments and care.

Ed Hall is recuperating at home again.

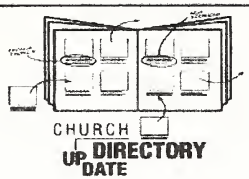
Jessie Fern Woodward's outpatient surgery has been re-scheduled for Monday, February 17.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

This Sunday, February 16 at 5:00 p.m. we will have a special time of youth worship, music and prayer.

Members of the youth group are asked to bring one or more photographs that they personally treasure or bring to mind the memory of an event that changed them in a deep way!

This will be a great and fun time! See you there!



A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Updated church address directories have been made for your convenience. If you would like a copy they are in the Narthex for you to pick one up, or you may get them from the church office.

They were updated in November of 1996.

D.M.A. - MARCH 11 BOTANICAL GARDENS

Absolute deadline for your reservation to the Botanical Gardens luncheon and a walk through the "Promise of Spring" show is by **Friday, February 28.**

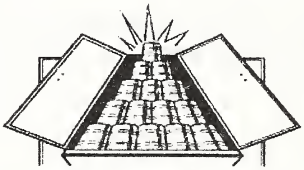
Cost: $7.00 for lunch. Make check payable to First Christian Church and turn money in with your reservation to the church office. We need your money by that date also to assure your reservation.

LIBRARY BOOKS ARE NOW DUE

We have begun reorganizing the library and hope to have it usable once again.

If you have any church library books that you are no longer using, please return them as soon as possible.

If you are still using them, please put the names, authors and library numbers of the books on a 3x5 index card and bring it to the church office. This will help those who are working in the library to have an accurate inventory. Thank you.



FOOD BANK MINISTRY

February (what's left of it) is tuna and noodles month at the Food Bank.

When you are shopping this month at the grocery store, please remember the ministry of helping those in our community who come to First Christian Church for an emergency supply of food.

You may bring cans of tuna and packages of noodles this Sunday to contribute (as part of your offering).

The volunteers of the Food Bank thank you for helping them help others!!!!

WOMEN'S RETREAT
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1
CAMP BARBEE

Leader: LuAnn Binkley comes with high recommendation from Donna McEvoy. LuAnn is a RN and she has her own business. She will help us find joy in the Lord.

Cost: $30.00 per person and that includes 3 meals.

Things to bring: Bible, paper and pen, personal items, sleeping bag or sheets and blankets. 2 liter of pop or other beverages and snacks.

To register: Make check payable to **Sue Brey marked Women's Retreat** along with the registration form below, and drop off at the church office or give to Sue Brey or Judy Mey.

Deadline: Wednesday, February 26, 1997.

AGENDA

Friday, February 28:
Check in - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner - 7:00 p.m.
1st Session - 8:00 p.m. - ?
Fun after 1st session

Saturday, March 1:
Breakfast - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
2nd Session - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Free Time
Lunch - Noon
3rd Session - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Clean up
Leave

- -

NAME______________________________ PHONE #____________________

$30.00 PAYMENT ENCLOSED_____

CALLING ALL MEN

his year's Promise Keeper's Conference theme is, "The Making of a Godly Man." We have decided to go to the windy city this year for the annual conference. The Chicago site for Promise Keeper's is in Soldier Field on May 23-24. It promises to be a watershed time for all those who attend with a heart for God. To avoid burdening the church with the financial liability of this event we are asking all men and boys who wish to attend to purchase your tickets individually. We will travel together from the church on the afternoon of the 23rd and return on the evening of the 24th. You may call 1-800-888-7595 for reservations but be persistent, the lines are busy. If you are already receiving material in the mail from Promise Keepers you may call 1-800-265-6023 to register. **IMPORTANT if you decide to go, and after you register, let Brian Prechtl know so we can arrange housing.** Time is limited therefore let's impose a church deadline of February 15 so that we can determine how many rooms to book. Please pray on this matter and consider how God may be working in your life to make you more of a Godly Man. Perhaps you want to experience this event with your son or your father. Perhaps you just want to experience the sound of 70,000 men lifting their voice in song and feel the power of the holy spirit inhabiting their praises. However God is calling you, I encourage you to join us for a meeting with Him.

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Prechtl

YOU'RE INVITED

Tracy A. Critell and Robert J. Krayer request the honour of your presence at their marriage on Friday, February 21, 1997, five-thirty p.m. at First Christian Church.

RACHEL GROUP

The Rachel Group will not meet in February, however, they will resume on March 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Dorothy Green, Room 220-H
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 416
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B
Golden Rose, Room 208-A

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Glenn & Lola Miller, 5410 Butterfield Drive 46835
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807

SAMPLE MISSIONS FORM

NAME_____
ACTIVITY_____
DATE_____
LENGTH OF TIME_____

THANK YOU

We want to express our gratitude to all of you who sent flowers or cards, gave us hugs, phone calls, said prayers, or offered words of encouragement and support during the past few weeks. This has been a difficult time for us losing two people who were very special to us. We feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation. Thanks to all of you!

Donna McEvoy-Heimann & Thelma Onion

SERVING FEBRUARY 16

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ralph Church & John Ohneck
10:45 a.m. Charles McGrew & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, S. Brickley, L. McFarland, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, R. Wise, E. Gorman

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

J. Kelly - J. Mounsey
D. Mey - K. Scott
K. Taylor - B. Smith
J. Church - B. Widmer

COMMUNION PREPARATION

M. Bier & Vandergriff's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ken Taylor & Bob Smith

CHURCH CALENDAR

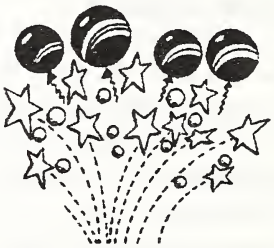
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
7:00 p.m. Capital Task Force
7:00 p.m. Married With Children Life Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
5:45 p.m. Carillon



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 19-25

Don Crouse(19), Richard Merrick(20), Heather Chapin(20), Stephanie Stabler(21), Walter Bowen(22), Susan Rousseau(23), Roger Moll(25), Eunice Conrad(25), Dan Church(25)

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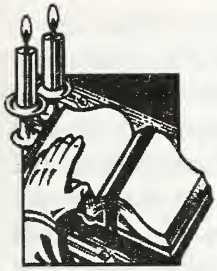
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

February 19, 1997 Volume 54, No. 8

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE
LENTEN BIBLE STUDY
"What was Jesus interested in His Final Week?"



"Green Flags are flying"

If you knew you had not long to live your life on this earth, what kinds of thoughts would occupy your mind? How would you spend those precious last moments of time? Who would you seek out to share time with?

These are some of the questions you'll be investigating in a weekly Lenten Bible Study led by Eunice Conrad to be held on Thursdays of Lent from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in our newly furnished church parlor.

Invite a friend. Bring your Bibles and your hearts and minds of faith.

Thursdays, February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

1st Week Mission Mile Report

There are 102 markers on the wall!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to (Other) Zehr

What's in a Mile for Mission?

- 1 hour of volunteering at a place of service such as Matthew 25, hospital, food bank, Baby's Closet.
- 1 hour of meeting with planning committee at church, choir and bell rehearsal, board meeting, etc.
- 1 hour of any volunteer work at church, i.e. newsletter preparation, office help, library assistance, cleaning, repair jobs.
- 1 period of time or discussion with someone outside the church when you name your faith or the church as being significant in your life.
- For every over-and-above the regular pledges or gift of money you give to God's work in the world.
- Anytime you do something for a neighbor or friend.
- Can you see the direction we're heading? We want to chart the miles we go as a congregation during the season of Lent. Each marker will be attached to the wall and we'll see how many laps we make during these six weeks of Lent.
- This list is not exhaustive. If you are doing something for God's sake, it is worthy of a mile of mission. You'll find the mile markers in the pews. Please put them in the offering plates after you fill them out.

On the way with you,

Diane Zehr

A TIME TO BUILD UPDATE

If you are interested in joining a group of us who will be traveling to Tyronza, Arkansas to rebuild a burned out black church, please call Diane Zehr to let me know.

So far there are 5 of us indicating interest. Those include: Laura McFarland, Leo Heimann, Caren Wise, Roger Moll, and Diane Zehr.

We'll leave Palm Sunday and return Maundy Thursday. All housing and meals are provided at no cost to us by Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Join us for a week of meaningful mission!

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

The children in our K-5th grade group of Sunday School are well into their last segment of the Journey through the Bible. It is the third year of our study. They are learning what it meant for Paul to be a missionary to the world and as part of their study, they are corresponding with Ellen and Andy Collins, our mission partners in Nepal. We'll keep you posted about their news.

Vince Wells is home from the hospital.

Ruth Truesdell is also back home from the hospital. However, **John Truesdell** is now in Lutheran Hospital having tests.

Jessie Fern Woodward had outpatient surgery this week.

Alberta Matthews (Michael Omspach's mother) had open heart surgery last week at Lutheran Hospital.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Bushey** who had a 2nd place rating and won a silver metal in the ISSMA Competition at Wayne High School!

I wish to thank Diane Zehr and the congregation for their prayers and concern last Sunday.

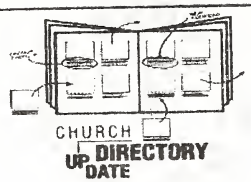
Also, to Marlene Crouse for going to the hospital with me. God Bless.

Vince Wells

YOUTH GROUP

5:00 P.M.

THIS SUNDAY



A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Updated church address directories have been made for your convenience. If you would like a copy they are in the Narthex for you to pick one up, or you may get them from the church office.

They were updated in November of 1996.

D.M.A. - MARCH 11 BOTANICAL GARDENS

Absolute deadline for your reservation to the Botanical Gardens luncheon and a walk through the "Promise of Spring" show is by **Friday, February 28.**

Cost: $7.00 for lunch. Make check payable to First Christian Church and turn money in with your reservation to the church office. We need your money by that date also to assure your reservation.

LIBRARY BOOKS ARE NOW DUE

We have begun reorganizing the library and hope to have it usable once again.

If you have any church library books that you are no longer using, please return them as soon as possible.

If you are still using them, please put the names, authors and library numbers of the books on a 3x5 index card and bring it to the church office. This will help those who are working in the library to have an accurate inventory. Thank you.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY

February (what's left of it) is tuna and noodles month at the Food Bank.

When you are shopping this month at the grocery store, please remember the ministry of helping those in our community who come to First Christian Church for an emergency supply of food.

You may bring cans of tuna and packages of noodles this Sunday to contribute (as part of your offering).

The volunteers of the Food Bank thank you for helping them help others!!!!

WOMEN'S RETREAT
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1
CAMP BARBEE

Leader: LuAnn Binkley comes with high recommendation from Donna McEvoy. LuAnn is a RN and she has her own business. She will help us find joy in the Lord.

Cost: $30.00 per person and that includes 3 meals.

Things to bring: Bible, paper and pen, personal items, sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, 2 liter of pop or other beverages and snacks.

To register: Make check payable to **Sue Brey marked Women's Retreat** along with the registration form below, and drop off at the church office or give to Sue Brey or Judy Mey.

Deadline: Wednesday, February 26, 1997.

AGENDA

Friday, February 28:
Check in - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Dinner - 7:00 p.m.
1st Session - 8:00 p.m. - ?
Fun after 1st session

Saturday, March 1:
Breakfast - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
2nd Session - 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Free Time
Lunch - Noon
3rd Session - 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Clean up
Leave

NAME_____ PHONE #_____

$30.00 PAYMENT ENCLOSED_____

A WORD FROM YOUR EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The value of one member...

Ten little members standing in a line.

One disliked the minister, then there were nine.

Nine ambitious members offered to work late.

One forgot her promise, then there were eight.

Eight creative members had ideas good as heaven.

One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.

Seven loyal members got into a fix.

They quarreled over projects, then there were six.

Six members remained with spirit and drive.

One moved away, then there were five.

Five steadfast members wished there were more.

One became indifferent, then there were four.

Four cheerful members who never disagree.

'til one complained of meetings, then there were three.

Three eager members! What did they do?

One got discouraged, then there were two.

Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done.

One joined a sports team, then there was only one.

One faithful member was feeling rather blue,

met with a neighbor, and then there were two.

Two earnest members each enrolled one more,

doubling their number, then there were four.

Four determined members, just wouldn't wait,

'til each one won another, then there were eight.

Eight excited members signed up sixteen more.

In another six verses, there'll be a thousand twenty-four.

—Copied
—Covenant Congregational Church
Waltham, MA

During 1996, **First Christian Church** had 42 new additions to our membership.

Their pictures are just inside the south entrance of the church.

Almost everyone has had their picture taken. We thank the Lord for these new people, and pray that we have 42 or more in 1997!

RACHEL GROUP

The Rachel Group will not meet in February, however, they will resume on March 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the church.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths flowers will be available this year for the Easter season. They will be in a 7" pot and the cost is $8.50. These may be given in memory of someone or in honor of someone. They may be picked up after second service on Easter.

Checks and orders may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Deadline is March 15.

In memory of_____

Given by_____

In honor of_____

Given by_____

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

We send our thanks and deep appreciation to the Rev. Diane Zehr for her many visits and concern for Ed's surgery and well-being, and for all the prayers, messages and good wishes from the congregation during his long hospitalization. He is home and hopefully on the road to recovery in the coming months.

Rosalie Hall

SERVING FEBRUARY 23

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. George Bruckman & Kathy Blocher
10:45 a.m. Ken Taylor & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, B. Smith

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Mike Mullen & McDougle's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Eve Gorman & Marlene Crouse

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

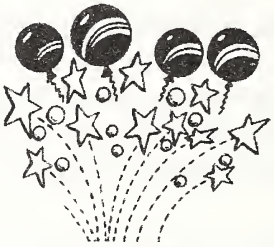
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
7:00 p.m. Married With Children Life Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Deb Lehman's

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
5:45 p.m. Carillon

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEB.28-MAR.1
Women's Retreat



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 4

Bill Chappell(26), Cathy Katt(26), Becky Krull(1), Barbara Busse(1), Frank Moody(2), Charlotte Ewing(3), Tom Walsh(4), Jim Davis

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

February 26, 1997 Volume 54, No. 9

REV. JERRY ZEHR RETURNS FROM SABBATICAL MARCH 2

Two months have flown by and this coming Sunday, our Senior Minister will return from his two month long study leave.

Many of us have been asking what he's done and how was life at the monastery.

He's prepared to tell us all about it on his first Sunday back, March 2.

We are happy to greet him and hope he'll be warmly welcomed home by YOU this Sunday!

BIBLES TO BE PRESENTED TO 3RD-5TH GRADERS SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Eight of our children have met with Eunice Conrad each Sunday of February to look at worship together. We are providing a time when they can learn what worship is and why we do what we do to give praise and thanks to God.

Culminating this class this coming Sunday will be the presentation of Bibles to each of these young people. Their families will also be recognized since we know the faith is passed on generation to generation. We are delighted to recognize these young persons on this step of their journey and their families who are encouraging them in faith and love.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

D.M.A. - MARCH 11 BOTANICAL GARDENS

Absolute deadline for your reservation to the Botanical Gardens luncheon and a walk through the "Promise of Spring" show is by **Friday, February 28.**

Cost: $7.00 for lunch. Make check payable to First Christian Church and turn money in with your reservation to the church office. We need your money by that date also to assure your reservation.

FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Spring is coming! March is spring cleaning time in your own food pantry! You are invited during this Lenten season to go through your own food pantry and clean out those items you do not plan to use. Bring these items with you to church for distribution in the food pantry. Thank you.

THANK YOU'S

To: First Christian Church,

Thank you for the flowers, cards and prayers that you have sent me. I truly enjoyed hearing from each of you and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I am feeling better each day, but I cannot go back to work until the end of February. I am looking forward to having a normal life again.

Sincerely,
Lauren Ewing

Dear Jerry and Diane,

I wanted to let you know that I moved within the last 6 months and I am now living in Crown Point, Indiana and teaching medical ultrasound classes at a 2 year college in Illinois. It was a very sudden move - within 1 week - and has been extremely hectic at school. I know your ministry has continued to grow and reach many on the south side. I thank you for your love and support of me during my Fort Wayne time. Your love and compassion for people will continue to draw them to you and God's ministry through you. Thank you and God Bless.

Casey Clarke

Thanks to Diane Zehr for transportation to the hospital. Also, thanks to all for prayers, cards, calls, visits, food, offers to help and concerns. All were deeply appreciated.

Jessie Fern Woodward

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Dorothy Green, Room 220-H
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 416
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B
Golden Rose, Room 208-A

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Glenn & Lola Miller, 5410 Butterfield Drive 46835
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

PROJECT READS REACHES OUT AT F.C.C. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Maybe you saw this news on T.V. or read in the paper this week about an outreach effort aimed to get children reading at their appropriate grade level by the end of third grade.

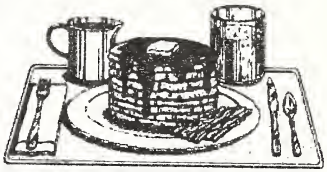
First Christian Church is one of 16 community sites where this mentoring/tutoring program will happen. It is our job and joy to staff one evening a week with volunteers who will spend **one hour** reading with 1-3 children third grade or below age level.

Children (who live near the church) **will be referred to us** by Fort Wayne Community Schools, and volunteers will be selected and trained by the Study Connection.

Are you nudged by God to give a child the chance of a lifetime of reading? If so see Teresa Hatten who is coordinating our churchs' effort or Diane Zehr for an application to be a volunteer.

March is our organizing month. We hope to begin the program in April.

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST

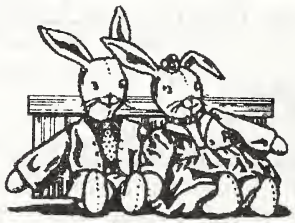


It's time once again for our Easter Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m.

We will have pancakes followed by a new magic show and of course the egg hunt.

The cost will be $2.00 per person. Please call the church office to register or Caren Wise at 482-4609 by March 28.

Come join the fun. You just might see an Easter Bunny!!



YOUTH GROUP AT THE MOVIES!

The youth group will be attending a late afternoon matinee movie this Sunday, March 2. The movie and time to meet will be decided at Sunday School. See you there!

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths flowers will be available this year for the Easter season. They will be in a 7" pot and the cost is $8.50. These may be given in memory of someone or in honor of someone. They may be picked up after second service on Easter.

Checks and orders may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Deadline is March 15.

In memory of_____

Given by_____

In honor of_____

Given by_____

THANK YOU TO TERESA HATTEN!

Teresa Hatten ended her work of coordinator of the Baby's Closet. She is still quite actively engaged in the issues of childrens' ministry.

We are all nourished and inspired by her witness of love and ministry on behalf of all the children of God's world, and we lift her up with great thanksgiving to God for all she is.

UPDATE ON MISSION TRIP TO ARKANSAS

Six of us are registered to go to rebuild the church in Arkansas March 23-27. Still a few days to register. Call Diane Zehr at 744-3239 today if you are interested!

SERVING MARCH 2

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Kris Ohneck & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. John Kelly & Dick Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Lehman, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Widmer, E. Yeoman

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

R. Church - S. Rudy
J. Ohneck - G. Brown
S. Hayes - S. Brey
A. Moll - L. Brey

COMMUNION PREPARATION

M. Mullen & McDougle's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Youth Group at the Movies

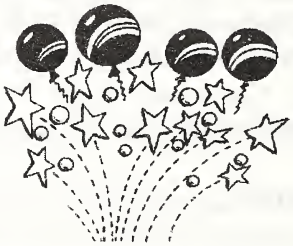
MONDAY, MARCH 3
7:00 p.m. Married With Children Life Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 4
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
10:00 a.m. Best Seat in the House Lenten Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MARCH 5-11

Wayne Whitworth(6), Cora Ann Harnish(7), Jane Fisher(7), Jerry Warner(8), Charles Suder(9), John Kelly(10)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

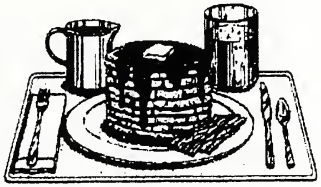
March 5, 1997 Volume 54, No. 10

THE CHURCH YOU'VE ALWAYS LONGED FOR 50 DAY SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE COMING MARCH 30-MAY 18

LOOKING AHEAD

Look for more news on this all congregational event. Books with daily messages will be available at a cost of $4.00 to each participant for at home use. An evening and morning group will meet weekly during those 50 days to share what is happening in our lives and the church. This will begin on Easter Sunday morning and be a way we can claim the new life Jesus offers for us and God's church.

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST



It's time once again for our Easter Bunny Breakfast on Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m.

We will have pancakes followed by a new magic show and of course the egg hunt.

The cost will be $2.00 per person. Please call the church office to register or Caren Wise at 482-4609 by March 28.

Come join the fun. You just might see an Easter Bunny!!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

Hello! Hello! I am glad to be back. I enjoyed the experience immensely but I missed everyone here. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity for this extended study leave. I can't express in words how much it has done for me personally and professionally.

The experience in California at the Crystal Cathedral was energizing and thought provoking. To hear some of the great preachers of our day like Dr. Schuller, Bill Hybels (Pastor at Willow Creek in Chicago), Rick Warren (Pastor at Saddleback Church in California), Ken Callahan, Bruce Larson and others was an experience I greatly enjoyed.

The time at the Abbey of Gethsemane in Kentucky was difficult but very growing. It was more than just being in a place with no T.V.'s or radios or talking. It was taking an extended period of time to look inward and examine myself, my relationship with God, my relationship with family, and my relationship with the church.

It was a time of being honest with myself about my hopes and dreams and the realizations or lack of realization of those dreams.

One thing that one of the Monks said that I have pondered and tried to unpack for myself since this experience was what he told a novice Monk. The novice Monk had been at the Monastery for a year when he asked the older Monk, "When am I going to learn to meditate?" The older Monk replied, "When you learn to stop slamming doors." Meditation and prayer are more than just taking a hour out of the day and then going back to slamming doors. A little food for thought for all of us.

I look forward to sharing some of my reflections with you in the next coming weeks.

I read over ten books during the eight weeks. Many dealing with the challenges to the church as we move into the next century.

I look forward to seeing everyone this Sunday!

Peace,

Jerry

RECYCLING PROGRAM BEGINS AT F.C.C.

First Christian Church has begun a recycling program. Recycling will include white and colored paper of all kinds, paperboard, cardboard, plastics (1,2,6), and aluminum cans. Please put these items in the labeled carts or bins behind the curtain in the fellowship hall.

Paper recycling cans are also available in church offices. If you have any questions about what is recyclable, talk to Diane Johnson at the church office or Steve Vachon at church or call his home at 744-6161. We want to do all we can to be stewards of God's creation, so lets all begin to think **"RECYCLE!"**

FOOD BANK MINISTRY

Spring is coming! March is spring cleaning time in your own food pantry! You are invited during this Lenten season to go through your own food pantry and clean out those items you do not plan to use. Bring these items with you to church for distribution in the food pantry. Thank you.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thanks to each of you who called, hugged, prayed, or sent a card during the recent loss of our baby. We are truly blessed to belong to such a caring community. May God watch over us all as we walk the road of life together.

Estel & Lori Vandergriff

Joys & Concerns

(As of Thursday, February 27):

John Truesdell has gone home from Lutheran Hospital.

We have received word that **Andy Cook** has suffered a stroke in Florida. His speech has been affected, but he is improving. If you'd like to send a card, his address is:

Andy Cook
Lee Memorial Hospital, Room 619
2776 Cleveland Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Marvel Brickley has gone back to the Lutheran Home after her surgery.

Congratulations to the following children (and their families) who received Bibles last Sunday after their participation in the worship class: **Lindsey Bailey, Sara Brey, Kyle Collins, Emily Evans, Eric McFarland, David Owens, Billy Puryear, Jenica Wilson.** We are also thankful for the dedication and love extended to these children by their leader, **Eunice Conrad.**

Gloria Jean Phillips is home from Lutheran Hospital after back surgery.

Word has come from Florida that **Peggy Buskirk** is coming along fine after her cornea transplant.

Our prayers are with **Lois Finkhousen** and her mother.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 8
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
4:30 p.m. Finance Committee
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, MARCH 10
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 11
9:30 a.m. Sewing Group
12:00 noon D.M.A. Luncheon at Botanical Gardens
6:30 p.m. Administrative Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
10:00 a.m. Best Seat in the House Lenten Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SUNDAY, MARCH 16
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Youth Group Progressive Dinner

MONDAY, MARCH 17
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 18
9:30 a.m. Rachel Group
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Committee Meeting

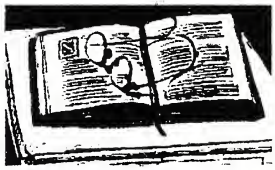
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
10:00 a.m. Best Seat in the House Lenten Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, MARCH 22
11:00 a.m. Sacrificial Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers

VOLUNTEER FOR PROJECT READ

There is sign up time to volunteer for **PROJECT READ.** It means saying yes to spending one hour per week reading with 1-3 children of Kindergarten - 3rd grade age. Call Diane Zehr for information.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY LED BY EUNICE CONRAD 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. THURSDAYS

D.M.A. PLEASE NOTE

For all of those going to Botanical Gardens on March 11, lunch will be served **promptly** at 12:00 noon - be there no later than 11:45 a.m.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Tulips, daffodils and hyacinths flowers will be available this year for the Easter season. They will be in a 7" pot and the cost is $8.50. These may be given in memory of someone or in honor of someone. They may be picked up after second service on Easter.

Checks and orders may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Deadline is March 15.

In memory of _____

Given by _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

DONATIONS OF EASTER CANDY NEEDED

This year we will once again need your help with donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a basket outside the church office to put your candy donations into no later than March 28. Thank you for your help.

Plan ahead for the Youth Progressive Dinner on Sunday, March 16 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Youth Group will meet this coming Sunday, March 9 at 5:00 p.m..

SERVING MARCH 9

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ralph Church & Eunice Conrad
10:45 a.m. Charles McGrew & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown, J. Ott
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, S. Brickley, L. McFarland, D. Heimann, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION

J. Ott & Brey's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ron & Caren Wise

SERVING MARCH 16

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & Anne Moll
10:45 a.m. Kathy Blocher & Ken Taylor

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, B. Smith

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

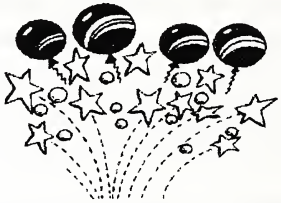
J. Kelly - E. Gorman
K. Ohneck - M. Mullen
G. Bruckman - K. Place
J. Church - J. McGrew

COMMUNION PREPARATION

J. Ott & Brey's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ken Taylor & Bob Smith



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MARCH 12-25

Jean Chappell(12), Kevin Mory(12), Mark Zimmerman(12), Stephen Ludwig(15), George Bruckman(16), Max Finkhousen(17), Gordon Howell(18), Brian Busse(18), Vincent Wells(19), Amy Vachon(19), Ruby Mowery(20), Pauline Auer(20), Brenda Kelly(21), Lou Simmons(22), John Glasgow(24), Freda Flaugh(25), Rosemary Krull(25), Christie Glasgow(25)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

March 19, 1997 Volume 54, No. 11

WHAT IS A SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE?

SPIRITUAL 50·DAY ADVENTURE

LOOKING AHEAD

Starting Easter, March 30 and going for 50 days until Pentecost, May 18, our church family will go on an adventure like we have never been on before!

After this adventure we will not be the same!! The purpose of the adventure is to explore where God is calling First Christian to go.

What direction or focus of ministry will we move towards from this point on. For 50 days we will not do "church" as usual, but we will be in a discerning process of study and prayer as to God's purpose and direction for our church.

We want you to be involved in the process!! How? By obtaining a study booklet, "The Church You've Always Longed For" (cost is $5.00) at the church. This has a daily theme, scripture and study for you to do on your own. Our ministers will preach and teach on these topics each week as well.

Following are the themes for each week: 1) Works at being a caring family. 2) Captures the heart of the community. 3) Welcomes all people. 4) Empowers each individual. 5) Models integrity. 6) Serves a broken world. 7) Encounters the living God. 8) Anticipates a great future.

There are booklets for all ages. Sign-up this Sunday!!

The adventure will begin in one week!!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

Why are we doing this Adventure? Why do we need a plan for the future? We don't!! We don't need a plan or direction for the future, but if we don't have a plan we will never move forward.

This time of discernment is a very important thing in the life of the church. This will give us a clarity about what we feel God is calling our ministry to be for the future of the church.

This is much more than just some goals the minister has for us to implement. This is about what you feel we need to be about as a church. Ministers come and ministers go, but the community has to have a clear understanding of our purpose and direction, to be able to fulfill God's plan.

I hope you have signed up for your booklet to join us in this adventure!!

Peace,
Jerry

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 23 - The children will join the grand processional at the beginning of the 10:45 a.m. service. All children gather in the back of the church by 10:40 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service - March 27, 7:00 p.m. This is a worship experience re-enacting the Last Supper Jesus had with his Disciples before he was crucified.

Prayer Vigil - Friday, March 28 beginning at 3:00 p.m. to Sunday, March 29 at 6:00 a.m. This is a time when our church family is in prayer from the time of Christ's crucifixion to his resurrection. You may sign up for an hour and come into the chapel of the church for prayer and meditation.

Easter Bunny Breakfast, Saturday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. We will have a light breakfast, new magic show, and of course the egg hunt. Cost is $2.00 per person. Call the church office to register.

Easter Sunday, March 30, Worship Services - 8:15 & 10:45. Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

THANK YOU'S

We are blessed with our church family and wish to thank each and every one for your prayers, cards and calls. It means so much during this long illness.

Thanks to Rev's. Jerry and Diane Zehr, also homebound teams for their comforting calls at the hospital and nursing home.

In our Prayers,
Marvel & Sue Brickley

TO: D.M.A.

Thank you sincerely for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered by the family of Rebecca Bowman.

Thank you so very much for the beautiful floral arrangement.

Clif Bowman, Linda Dawson, Janet Price

TO: Rev. Diane Zehr, Rev. Jeff Bates, Sharon Pauley, Judy Mey, Sue Brey, Elinor Place, Sue Oden, Phyllis Lahr

Your assistance is much appreciated in the part that you played in making the wedding day of Tracy Critell and Robert Krayer a wonderful, memorable event. Thank you.

John & Kris Ohneck

SACRIFICIAL LUNCHEON CANCELLED

The Sacrificial Luncheon that was scheduled for this coming Saturday, March 22 has been cancelled. Please note the change.

Joys & Concerns

Ruth Truesdell is a patient at Lutheran Hospital.

Dorothy Green is now at the Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Room 301A, Ossian, IN 46777.

Glenn & Lola Miller is now at the Towne House Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road, Room 201W, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

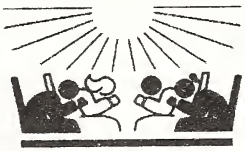
Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of **Golden Rose** who passed away on March 13, 1997.

We welcome **Christi and Mindy Deck** into the membership of First Christian Church. They transferred their membership from North Christian Church on March 2, 1997.

LAST CHANCE TO BRING EASTER CANDY

This year we will once again need your help with donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a basket outside the church office to put your candy donations into no later than March 28. Thank you for your help.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER



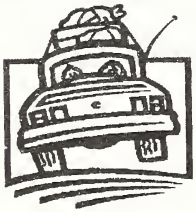
The Easter Prayer Vigil will start Friday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. and end Easter Sunday at 6:00 a.m.

Please sign up for one hour or more if you wish. Groups or individuals are invited to sign up, such as Elders, Deacons, Life Groups, families or individuals. You may bring your favorite prayer to share with each other. A notebook and bulletin board will be provided for prayer and prayer requests.

We also need two men for Saturday night guard duty.

Thank you.

The Worship Committee



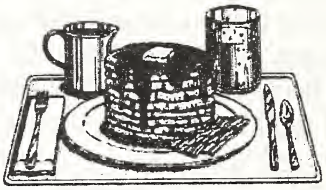
D.M.A. APRIL FIELD TRIP

Luncheon at Hilger's Restaurant (Highway 30) at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, April 1.

Space has been reserved. From there we go to Columbia City and the REMC facility. The free tour starts promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Join us and learn how electricity is generated for business and homes. If this doesn't spark your interest, at least join us for lunch!

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST



It's time once again for our Easter Bunny Breakfast this Saturday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m.

We will have pancakes followed by a new magic show and of course the egg hunt.

The cost will be $2.00 per person. Please call the church office to register or Caren Wise at 482-4609 by March 28.

Come join the fun. You just might see an Easter Bunny!!

Youth Group will meet this coming Sunday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m..

MISSIONS

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO FLOODS

You are assisting in flood relief for the Ohio River Valley. Did you know this?

As you made your offering to Week of Compassion, our dollars along with Disciples all over the U.S. and Canada are assisting communities in relief efforts. $8,000 has already been given. Estimates for needs are exceeding $50,000.

Seven of our congregations are traveling to Arkansas during March 23-26 not only to help rebuild a burned-out black church, but also to assist in flood relief efforts.

Some of you have asked for further ways you can be a part of caring for folks and communities who have been devastated by the floods.

Here are some further ways you can help:

KENTUCKY INTERCHURCH DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM: David Cooper of the Kentucky Council of Churches leads this program. A toll-free number (1-888-253-3027) is available to receive updated information concerning recovery efforts and needs.

KENTUCKIANA DISCIPLES AREA: Joel Duffield may be called to receive information concerning the Louisville area. His number is 502/585-1306.

WEEK OF COMPASSION: The office of Week of Compassion is already working with the above and other agencies. Early estimates project requests for relief will exceed $50,000. To date, eleven grants totaling $8,000 have been made. Financial gifts to Week of Compassion are needed. For updates call 317/635-3100, or FAX317-635-3700.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION LEAVE FOR ARKANSAS

Six of our new members will be commissioned on Palm Sunday to represent First Christian Church in flood relief efforts and rebuilding efforts for a Baptist Church in Arkansas burned by arsonists.

The volunteers include:

Rev. Diane Zehr
Roger Moll
Caren Wise
Laura McFarland
Rosie Krull
Leo Heimann
JoElla Zehr

Please include them in your prayers this week as well as those folks who are living in these situations.

SERVING MARCH 23

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Kris Ohneck & George Bruckman
10:45 a.m. Dick Mey & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Lehman, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Widmer, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

D. Lehman, J. Franklin, E. Gorman

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Eve Gorman & Marlene Crouse

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, MARCH 24
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young & the Restless LIFE Group

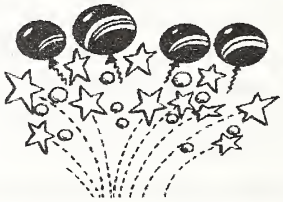
TUESDAY, MARCH 25
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, MARCH 27
7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 28
3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil begins

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
9:00 a.m. Easter Bunny Breakfast
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MARCH 26-APRIL 1

Holly Mathis(26), Ed Hall(27), James Buchanan(28), Linda Hendrickson(28), Lelia Arnos(28), Pat Booher(29), Andy Brosey(29), Sylvia Smith(29), Violet Manes(29), Chris Murray(30), Gladys Harshbarger(1), Paul Yentes(1), Adam Falbe(1)

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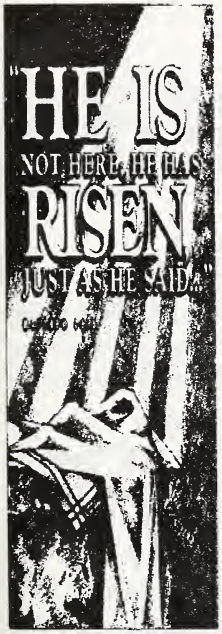
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

March 26, 1997 Volume 54, No. 12



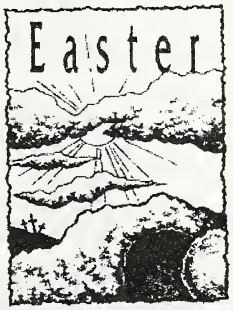
THE TOMB IS EMPTY! HE IS RISEN!!

Easter Worship Sunday at 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

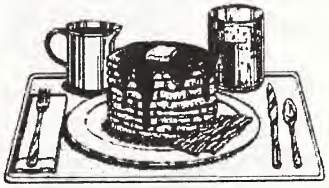
This Sunday, March 30, we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Come and worship with us.

There will be a breakfast between services at 9:30 a.m. for everyone.



EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST



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Come join the fun. You just might see an Easter Bunny!!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

This Sunday, I will begin teaching the youth class (grades 6th-12th) during the Sunday School hour. If you know of any youth please encourage them to attend. I am looking forward to learning some new "slang words" for my sermons.

I hope you have gotten your booklet for this **50 Day Adventure** we are starting this Sunday.

I love the title, "The Church You've Always Longed For." The themes, I believe, are applicable to our personal relationships as well.

Rev. Diane Zehr and the other members of our church who went on the work trip to Arkansas to help rebuild one of the burned out churches, will be back this Sunday. We will show slides of their experiences in our worship service.

Peace,

Jerry

P.S. The Easter Bunny Breakfast is a great event to invite an unbeliever or unchurched friends. It will be very non-threatening to a new person, and still give them a feel of the love of the church family. Why don't you invite someone to the breakfast, or to worship this Sunday!! Go for it!!

SINGER,
SONGWRITER,
KEYBOARDIST

KEN MEDEMA
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1997
MERILLAT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS - 8:00 P.M.

Partially funded by STAR EXCAVATING - Additional funding by The MAJESTIC PRODUCTS COMPANY.

For more information call: (219) 359-4261.

CALL FOR TICKETS TODAY!

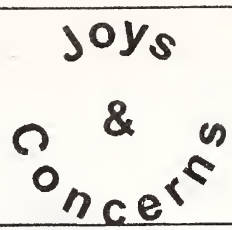
THE 50 DAY ADVENTURE WILL BEGIN THIS SUNDAY!

You may pick up your booklet in the church office or get it on Sunday.

The theme for the first week is, "Work at Caring for your Church Family." Read I Peter 2:9-12 and answer the questions on page 20 of the booklet as a warm-up for Sunday.

If you would like to be in a group on Sunday mornings that will be studying the weekly themes, come and join the group that will be meeting in the fellowship hall at 9:30 a.m. Sundays. This group will begin on April 6 and the teacher will be Roger Moll. We will also have a Sunday evening group which will meet from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

There are two groups meeting during the week. One is on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., and the other is meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (both will meet at the church). Everyone is welcomed. You do not need to have signed up in advance to attend.



Ruth Truesdell is home from Lutheran Hospital.

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family of **Virgil Buchanan** who passed away on March 20, 1997.

Rev. Jerry (or known affectionately by some as the Z-MAN) will start teaching the youth class (grades 6th-12th) this Sunday.

Come and join in the adventure!

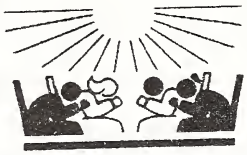
THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you all for the cards, notes and phone calls that I received while I was here in the Tarpon Springs hospital. It means so very much when you're away from home.

Sincerely,
Eileeen Klepfer

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER



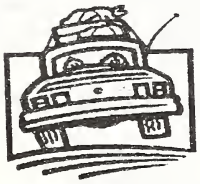
The Easter Prayer Vigil will start Friday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. and end Easter Sunday at 6:00 a.m.

Please sign up for one hour or more if you wish. Groups or individuals are invited to sign up, such as Elders, Deacons, Life Groups, families or individuals. You may bring your favorite prayer to share with each other. A notebook and bulletin board will be provided for prayer and prayer requests.

We also need two men for Saturday night guard duty.

Thank you.

The Worship Committee



D.M.A. APRIL FIELD

Luncheon at Hilger's Restaurant (Highway 30) at 12:00 noon. Tuesday, April 1.

Space has been reserved. From there we go to Columbia City and the REMC facility. The free tour starts promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Join us and learn how electricity is generated for business and homes. If this doesn't spark your interest, at least join us for lunch!

PLEASE NOTE: Meet at the church by 11:15 a.m if you are interested in carpooling. We will leave no later than 11:30.

TAKING STOCK

Many of us, as we progress through life, have experienced trials and tribulations. However, because of our love of family, friends, and the grace of God, have been able to overcome most obstacles.

There is a time in life we all must face as we become more senior. We must look into "Assisted Living."

There is a monthly newspaper called "Senior Life," and it is available at most restaurants — free. There are many good articles relative to assisted living, concerning activities, home services, and various apartment complexes. For those who may be interested in new living space, we have prepared a booklet that may be of help to you. We also have information of living quarters sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). If you would like to have this information, please call the church office and it will be mailed to you.

George Bruckman

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 416
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING MARCH 30

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ralph Church & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. John Kelly & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, S. Brickley, J. Franklin, L. McFarland, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, R. Wise

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

R. Church - J. Ott
D. Mey - D. Keebortz
K. Blocher - K. Bushey
A. Moll - D. Lehman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

D. Lehman, J. Franklin, E. Gorman

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MARCH 29
9:00 a.m. Easter Bunny Breakfast
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice

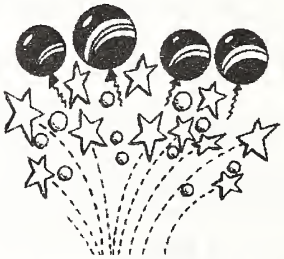
SUNDAY, MARCH 30
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 31
7:00 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 1
10:00 a.m. Adventure Group
12:00 noon D.M.A. Luncheon
7: 00 p.m. Elders Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2
7:00 p.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, APRIL 3
5:45 p.m. Carillon



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS APRIL 2-8

Leo Heimann(2), Sylvia Engle(3), Wes Westerfield(4), Anne Shirley(5), Sharon Pauley(5), Genevieve Ripple(6), Reba Fusselman(6), Scott Keebortz(6), Rick Evans(6)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

April 2, 1997 Volume 54, No. 13

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS.....

SPIRITUAL 50·DAY ADVENTURE

This is the first week of our 50 Day Adventure, with our theme this week being "Working at Being a Caring Church Family."

Our small groups will begin this week with one on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., one at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. One on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.** and also **one at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings.**

These groups will help you to get a deeper understanding of the material and to share with others in the adventure.

Please join one of the groups.

They will be very engaging and meaningful.

If you do not have a booklet, we still have a couple in the office you may purchase.

There will be a special **youth class** studying the same material **on** Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The **"Z"** will be there as the guide for the adventure.

You won't want to miss it. It should be wild!!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-5239

From Here to Zehr

Some people have asked me the question. "What is the big deal about this 50 Day Adventure study? What is different about this study than any of the other ones we have done?

ANSWER: The purpose of this study is drastically different than the typical Bible Study. The reason is the WHOLE CHURCH is involved in this study to prepare us for a time of discernment and decision making about the future direction of the churches ministry.

In June, the whole church will be invited to share in the development of a ministry plan that will take us into the year 2003.

THIS STUDY is to prepare our hearts and minds for God's wisdom and understanding about what it will mean to do "church" in the 21st century.

QUESTION: What type of decision will we make?

ANSWER: I do not know, that will be up to what direction the congregation feels God is calling us to move towards as we come closer to the year 2000.

I hope you will join us on this great adventure.

Peace,

Jerry

P.S. If you have any questions about the Adventure or the process of discernment that will follow the study, please drop them in the mail.

Also, thanks to everyone for a wonderful Easter.

KEN MEDEMA
THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1997
MERILLAT CENTRE FOR THE ARTS - 8:00 P.M.

SINGER,

Partially funded by STAR EXCAVATING - Additional funding by The MAJESTIC PRODUCTS COMPANY.

For more information call: (219) 359-4261.

CALL FOR TICKETS

A LABOR OF LOVE
WORKTRIP TO ARKANSAS
REBUILDING ST. MARK'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

(Seven members of First Christian Church on Maundy Thursday, returned from rebuilding a burned church in Chelford, Arkansas. The volunteers included: Roger Moll, Caren Wise, Laura McFarland, Rosemary Krull, Leo Heimann, Joella Zehr, and Diane Zehr.)

November 18, 1995, an arsonist burned the building of St. Mark`s Missionary Baptist Church in Chelford, Arkansas. The building was burned, but the hearts and faith of the church were still on fire for the Lord, and no amount of evil or bitterness would win the day.

16 months later 337 members of the family of God from 19 states, in partnership with God, the National Council of Churches, Habitat for Humanity and Disciples Homeland Ministries rebuilt St. Mark`s. In a period of 9 days, the building was completely constructed, furnished and ready for worship.

Rev. Campbell, pastor of the church said in his sermon that last night, "337 saints stopped off in Arkansas on their way to heaven."

Seven of those volunteers were from First Christian Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Just among us seven, we filled countless wheelbarrows with Arkansas clay to level the landscape. We did drywall mending, worked on the roof, trimmed windows, painted door frames, hooked up bathroom fixtures and installed the baptistry, helped to install the septic system and laid carpet.

We took with us three sets of paraments (cloths for the pulpit and communion table) for 3 seasons of the church year. On Wednesday we presented them to Rev. Campbell and 2 members of the church on behalf of all of us here at First Christian.

What really impressed us was that all of us who volunteered really did work together without letting race or level of education, income, or status build walls between us as it so often happens in everyday life. So when we worshipped it was like we worked side by side and one in spirit.

It was a thrilling experience that sometimes just gave you goose bumps like when a bus load of school children went by as we were filling ruts in the yard. They yelled out the windows, "Thanks for coming to our town and building our church."

We will continue to pray for St. Mark's Missionary Baptist Church and hope the joy they know is full and beautiful that they might do great things for God.

The cornerstone of the church said it all. It read, "Injured by bitterness, Rebuilt by love, Holy Week, 1997."

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO YOU.....

To join us for a Reception at our home
to celebrate the marriage of
Daniel Schuricht and Deborah Lehman.
Saturday, April 19, 1997 - Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Dan and Debby were married on March 11,
1997 at a small ceremony with
immediate family and now live at
206 S. Seminole Circle in Fort Wayne.
Please come by any time between 12 and 7.
See the house and enjoy light refreshments.
No gifts please.
R.S.V.P. 219-456-2345.

WE NEED ACTORS!!!

The Drama Group is going to start meeting again beginning Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 p.m.

If you are in High School or older, come and join the group.

We put together skits for the Sunday morning service.

Come and join us, it's a lot of fun!!

Joys & Concerns

Marvel Brickley has fallen and broke her hip and will have surgery Tuesday of this week. She is in Lutheran Hospital. Also, please keep **Sue Brickley** in your prayers.

Our prayers are with **Bill Crouse** as he recuperates at home with cracked ribs.

Please keep the following person(s) in your prayers also: **Charles Schnobel**, **Bud Ludwig**, **Jean Green**, **Earl Plummer**, **Gene Klepfer**, **John & Ruth Truesdell.**

Wilma Miller had outpatient surgery this week on Monday.

Our prayers are with **Shari Grier** and **Laura Kurtz** and their families as their grandmother passed away.

The Youth Group will meet this Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m.

The Youth Class has a new teacher on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Come and meet "Z".

SERVING APRIL 6

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Eunice Conrad & Anne Moll
10:45 a.m. Eileen Klepfer & Gene Klepfer

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McFarland, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, B. Smith

COMMUNION PREPARATION

E./K. Place, Vandergriff's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 6
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adventure Group
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Prospective Diaconate Meeting

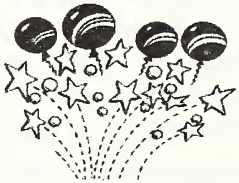
MONDAY, APRIL 7
6:30 p.m. Lay Leadership
7:00 p.m. Married with Children LIFE Group
7:00 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 8
10:00 a.m. Adventure Group
6:30 p.m. Administrative Committee
7:300 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9
7:00 p.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, APRIL 10
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
8:30 a.m. Elders at North Christian Church
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS APRIL 9-15

Donald Kampenga(9), Ann Sands(9), Linda Cobb(9), Charles Ludwig(10), Betty Grimm(10), Tammy Deck(11), Becky Glasgow(12), Adam Hayes(12), Margaret Prechtl(14), Gary Kern(14), Linda Deck(15), Ruth Yost(15)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

April 9, 1997 Volume 54, No. 14

CELEBRATE MAY AND MOTHER'S DAY AT OUR FIRST ANNUAL MAD HATTER TEA PARTY-SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Reservations are a MUST!

What fun playing tea party used to be for all of us. We get a chance to do this again on May 4. The price of admission will be $3.50 per ticket and YOU MUST WEAR A HAT!

Serving will be done by an array of our most hospitable men of the church.

There will be a chance for children to play dress up. We'll enjoy a style show of their outfits, and draw numbers for some great door prizes for both adults and children.

Our own Becca Widmer will share with us some stories and songs concerning "Hats We Wear."

We'll have lots of different kinds of teas and cookies, crumpets, finger sandwiches, homemade chocolates and mints, nuts and lots of fun.

You can invite friends, family members, neighbors, but **WE MUST HAVE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY SUNDAY, APRIL 27.**

Only those who are registered may attend, **SO CALL SOON.** This is sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

Following is an excerpt from the Sabbatical report I made to the Board of Elders and Board of Trustees. If you want a copy of the entire report, you may pick one up in the church office.

What is God calling First Christian to become in the 21st century? Over my sabbatical I have had an opportunity to reflect on the past and the future of First Christian. What will it take for us to continue to be a healthy, vibrant, growing (spiritually and numerically) faith community? Will we continue to do the same things we have done for 50 years? How has the cultural change affected the church and its ministry? Are we ready to engage the culture to reach the unchurched? What is our mission? What is our purpose?

BACKGROUND

In *"The Inviting Church"*, Oswald and Leas have interviewed a number of growing churches and have found five ingredients that they had in common.

1. A positive identity
2. Congregational harmony
3. The pastor's ability to generate enthusiasm
4. The congregation's involvement in social action or social service
5. Small group programming; what seemed to be more important than anything else is that growing congregations have a positive personality which showed through in the church's having a sense of a unique identity.

How is First Christian unique or different than the other churches in the area? What is our purpose for existing? If First Christian was gone tomorrow, would the community miss us? Why?

Members of growing churches know they are special. They believe God is bringing God's kingdom into their realm. They understand their basic enterprise is to proclaim a message of faith, hope, and love to the world and they are doing it. No amount of propaganda or organization will cover a lack of substance at the core. These congregations didn't have gimmicks to get people there and keep them in. They had a revitalizing spirit that extended throughout the membership of the

(Continued on page 4)

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO YOU.....

To join us for a Reception at our home
to celebrate the marriage of
Daniel Schuricht and Deborah Lehman.
Saturday, April 19, 1997 - Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Dan and Debby were married on March 11,
1997 at a small ceremony with
immediate family and now live at
206 S. Seminole Circle in Fort Wayne.
Please come by any time between 12 and 7.
See the house and enjoy light refreshments.
No gifts please.
R.S.V.P. 219-456-2345.

WE NEED ACTORS!!!

The Drama Group is going to start meeting again beginning this Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 p.m.

If you are in High School or older, come and join the group.

We put together skits for the Sunday morning service.

Come and join us, it's a lot of fun!!

Joys & Concerns

Marvel Brickley and John & Ruth Truesdell are patients at Lutheran Hospital.

Bill Crouse has gone to stay at his daughters home.

Charles Schnobel is home recuperating after outpatient surgery.

Bob Bier is a patient at St. Joseph Medical Center.

Mildred Sarrazin is a patient at Parkview Hospital as is **Lola Miller.**

Andy Cook is at home.

Congratulations to **Charles Suder** who has won the National Balloon Tieing Contest.

Lauren Estelle Brosey, daughter of Andy and Erin Brosey, was dedicated at First Christian Church on Easter Sunday, March 30.

THANK YOU

Thank you all for your prayers and concerns toward my nephew last weekend (Easter). He was the young person that was found under water at South Side's pool.

He is home and has all his health back. Thank you.

Kris Ohneck

HERE TO ZEHR - Cont. from Page 2

congregation which was visible in the relationship between the members and their pastors. This is why it is imperative for the lay leadership and the ministers to be together in the direction they will lead the congregation.

The first question we need to ask is - what drives this church? In *"The Purpose Driven Church"* Rick Warren states, "every church is driven by something. There is a guiding force, a controlling assumption, a direct conviction behind everything that happens. It may be unspoken. It may be unknown by many. Most likely it's never been officially voted on. But it is there influencing every aspect of the church's life."

There are some churches that are driven by tradition. The goal of a tradition driven church is to simply perpetuate the past. There are some churches that are personality driven. In this church the most important question is "what does the leader want?" There are some churches that are driven by finances. The question at the forefront of everyone's mind in a finance driven church is "how much will it cost?" Nothing else seems ever quite as important as finances. The most heated debate in a finance driven church is always over the budget.

There are other types of churches as well. The program driven church, the churches driven by buildings; and churches driven by events. I believe that a strong, growing church is driven by a vision they believe to be God's purpose for their church. Proverbs 19:21 says, "many are the plans in a persons heart but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Plans, programs and personalities don't last, but God's purposes will last. There is nothing that will revitalize a church faster than rediscovering its purpose. Before the congregation looks to defining its purpose, it needs to be in a Bible Study looking at how Jesus defines the church and its mission. The 50 day journey will be perfect for this type of intense study.

Finally, as we develop a ministry plan for our church we will be able to see how each persons gifts can best help God's plan to be fulfilled. This will help us to move out of the mind set of finding people to fill slots for existing committees. Our (committees) areas of ministry will be shaped by our overall direction for the church. This will give us a chance to let some things go that are no longer effective and find new ways God wants us to fulfill God's dream.

It is an exciting and challenging time for the church and as Dr. Schuller said, "todays decisions are tomorrows dreams fulfilled."

Let's go!!

Peace,

Jerry

ADDITIONAL HELP NEEDED FOR PRODUCTION OF "STOP THE MADNESS 2 - THE SHANNON LUTZ STORY"

The following is a list of additional things which would be helpful in the production of the above. The easiest items are food to feed the cast and crew members, who will be giving of themselves for three nights to make this production a reality. We are feeding a cast and crew of 50-60 people for three nights (April 14, 15, 16). Here it is:

⇒ Fresh fruit (apples, oranges, bananas, etc.)
⇒ Fruit juices (same)
⇒ Bagels, Muffins, Donuts ("grab and go" food)
⇒ Desserts: Cookies, Brownies, Pumpkin Pie (Director's Favorite)
⇒ Bottled Waters
⇒ Sodas (any kind with caffeine)

These will be needed at the beginning of our shoot days (6:00 p.m.) on set. Also, anyone who would be willing to help serve and prepare the food would be great. Lunch will be served around midnight or 1:00 a.m. Anyone who is interested or that is going to bring something is requested to please call Lisa Bartels, Line Producer, at 423-3436 ASAP.

Anyone who is interested in contributing financially should contact Mark Archer, Producer/Director at 749-9853. Additional monies can be used to purchase additional prints for theatrical play.

Sincerely,
Mark Archer, ATLANTIS Entertainment

FIRST TIME VISITORS IN WORSHIP ON APRIL 6, 1997

Laura Phelps, 1117 Tecumseh Street 46805, **Debra Fulkerth,** 1803 Poinsette Drive 46808, **Lynda Eichel,** 4429 Pembroke Lane 46807.

TAKE STOCK

This is just a reminder to those interested in obtaining information relative to apartments, assisted living or nursing facilities.

We have some information available at the church office and you may have a copy. Please call if you are interested.

George Bruckman

ITEMS WE NEED TO BORROW FOR MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

- Tea pots (to be used for centerpieces and for service table.
- Tiered plate racks (for serving table).
- Tiered plates (for serving table).
- Tea Cart (is it possible - any out there?).
- New wheelbarrow (clean to be used as decoration).

Please leave above items in Diane Zehr's office. We'll lock them up to be safe.

REPAIRS NEEDED.....

I need repairs on 2 afghans - 1 crocheted and one knitted (I think). Would you have time to repair for pay or barter? (I make turtles and cherry flips or pies and cakes). Call Rosemary Krull at 432-6181 if you like to do this sort of thing.

We had 10 youth in Sunday School. It was a great class! Christy brought donuts and juice (Jerry paid for them), we learned Jerry Zehr was a champion bowler in a previous life, and Melissa Brey can burp mountain dew!

Youth class meets at 9:30 a.m. Youth group will meet after second service this Sunday for a pizza lunch (please bring $3). We will then go to the home of Bill & Joan Franklin to help in a yard work project so bring work clothes. It should be a great time!

REMINDER TO ELDERS:

Elders will meet at North Christian Church this coming Saturday, April 12, 1997 at 8:30 a.m.

ATTENTION 3RD-5TH GRADERS

The 3rd-5th graders will meet this coming Sunday with Eunice Conrad during the second worship service in the Upper Room.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

All food bank volunteers are invited to a special meeting and potluck lunch on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the changes in process with our food bank ministry.

Please call Steve Vachon at 744-6161 if you cannot attend.

WORKDAY AT BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP SATURDAY, MAY 3 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. LUNCH PROVIDED!

Anyone interested in getting our camp ready for the coming season? May 3rd promises to be a great day of fellowship, food and good hard work made enjoyable by the fellowship with many other Christian brothers and sisters! The First Christian youth group plans on participating, so youth group members mark your calendars.

Please call the church to indicate your intention to go so that the camp may know how much to prepare for lunch. Arrive early at the church so we can leave by 8:00 a.m.

FINAL COUNT OF MILES FOR MISSION - 1,239 MILES

We "more than" went our distance as a congregation as we observed a Lenten discipline of recording the number of hours of service and ministry we offered in Christs' name. Our goal was 500 miles and we more than doubled that. Have you taken a moment to look at the markers in the sanctuary and see what our congregation does in the community and in the church? It is an encouraging thing to see how First Christian lives our faith. Thanks for your ministries. Thanks for participating in this venture.

Diane Zehr

SERVING APRIL 13

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & George Bruckman
10:45 a.m. Charles McGrew & Dick Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Schuricht, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

E. Klepfer - B. Bier
S. Hayes - M. Bier
G. Bruckman - G. Brown
J. Church - A. Cook

COMMUNION PREPARATION

E./K. Place, Vandergriff's

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ron & Caren Wise

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
8:30 a.m. Elders at North Christian Church
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers

SUNDAY, APRIL 13
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adventure Group
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
4:00 p.m. Drama Group
5:00 p.m. Adventure Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, APRIL 14
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle
10:00 a.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
7:00 p.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, APRIL 17
5:45 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS APRIL 16-22

Heather Holmes(16), Dawn Holmes(16), John Weyer(16), Diane Freimuth(16), Bob Mitchell(18), Arlene Downes(20), Karen Zimmerman(21), Julia Arnold(21)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

April 16, 1997 Volume 54, No. 15

50 GOOD THINGS ABOUT MY CHURCH

SPIRITUAL 50-DAY ADVENTURE

CHECK THIS OUT!

During the 50 days of this adventure, each day we are to write a good thing we appreciate about our church. Following are some of the things that individuals listed in the first 25 days of the adventure: Easter Prayer Vigil, beautiful building, very good small groups, elders, homebound calling, evangelism (identifying with new members and visitors), members calling on shut-ins, D.M.A. group activity for our senior group, ministry to children, pastors enthusiasm to aid our congregation in all areas of life, food bank program, baby's closet program, great Sunday School classes, good and caring people, music in worship, prayer chain, youth reaching out to other youth.

These are just a few that people have written in their books. We will have a time of sharing in worship on Sunday, so bring your list with you to worship.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

May 18 - Pentecost Sunday! Final Sunday of the 50 Day Adventure. **ONE SERVICE - 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 A.M. WITH A PITCH IN DINNER AFTER CHURCH.**

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

There will be a new show on T.V. starting in May called, "Behind the Headlines." This is a show on Channel 10 that I will be hosting exploring issues and people of our community. I'm looking forward to giving a forum to discuss issues of our community that are important to all of us.

I need a few people who would like to volunteer as camera people for the taping of the shows. The tapings will be twice a month during the day in a 3 hour block of time. There is a training class for all volunteers to learn the camera equipment on May 3, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Channel 10. If you would be interested in helping me get this show on the air, let me know.

Peace,

Jerry

P.S. If you would like a copy of the sabbatical report I gave to the Elders and the official Board, come by the church office and pick one up.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) group will meet on Tuesday, May 6, 1997. More information in next weeks Tidings.

NEWCOMERS COFFEE AND DESSERT 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

This coming Sunday evening our pastors, Jerry and Diane, will be hosting a gathering of newcomers to our church who would like to learn more about First Christian Church.

Zehr's address: 4802 Calumet. Phone - 456-3172.

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO YOU.....

To join us for a Reception at our home
to celebrate the marriage of
Daniel Schuricht and Deborah Lehman.
Saturday, April 19, 1997 - Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Dan and Debby were married on March 11,
1997 at a small ceremony with
immediate family and now live at
206 S. Seminole Circle in Fort Wayne.
Please come by any time between 12 and 7.
See the house and enjoy light refreshments.
No gifts please.
R.S.V.P. 219-456-2345.

WE NEED ACTORS!!!

The Drama Group will meet this coming Saturday, April 19, 1997 at 11:00 a.m. Hope to see you then!

Joys & Concerns

Marvel Brickley and John & Ruth Truesdell are home from Lutheran Hospital.

Our prayers are with **Ron & Caren Wise** as Caren's stepfather passed away last week.

Lola Miller is home from Parkview Hospital as is **Mildred Sarrazin.**

Keep the following persons in your prayers: **Bill Crouse, Andy Cook, Bev Hendricks, Janet Weicker, Vince Wells** and **Earl Plummer.**

Bob Bier has gone home from St. Joseph Medical Center.

Charles Schnobel has also gone home from the St. Joseph Medical Center.

Congratulations to **Michael & Diana Moore** in the birth of a daughter, Raven Olivia on April 14, 1997!

SpringVIEW

Spring View will give you a glimpse of the '97-98'CWF study named "Church Alive"; an option of attending at least 2 seminars that will be offered, a time of fellowship with other CWF women and a time of reflection and worship together. This is an important event and I hope to see you there!

Registration form is enclosed.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

All food bank volunteers are invited to a special meeting and potluck lunch on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the changes in process with our food bank ministry.

Please call Steve Vachon at 744-6161 if you cannot attend.

WORKDAY AT BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP SATURDAY, MAY 3 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. LUNCH PROVIDED!

Anyone interested in getting our camp ready for the coming season? May 3rd promises to be a great day of fellowship, food and good hard work made enjoyable by the fellowship with many other Christian brothers and sisters! The First Christian youth group plans on participating, so youth group members mark your calendars.

Please call the church to indicate your intention to go so that the camp may know how much to prepare for lunch. Arrive early at the church so we can leave by 8:00 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... that 7 students will be tutored beginning this week at First Christian Church?

Did you know.....that Greg & Jenny Baitz bought their first home (address is: 9902 Sawtooth Court 46804. Phone: 432-8494)?

Did you know.....that Miles Wilson just got back from a trip to Washington, D.C.?

Did you know.....15 of our Elders went to a work shop at North Christian Church last Saturday?

Did you know.....that the stone-facing will be put on the new rest rooms this week?

Did you know.....that Jerry and Diane are involved with a T.V. program on Channel 10 beginning in May called, "Behind the Headlines?"

Did you know.....that the youth went roller skating Sunday evening and our ministers went and rolled along also?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

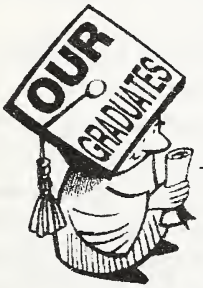
ITEMS WE NEED TO BORROW FOR MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

- Tea pots (to be used for centerpieces and for service table.
- Tiered plate racks (for serving table).
- Tiered plates (for serving table).
- Tea Cart (is it possible - any out there?).
- New wheelbarrow (clean to be used as decoration).

Please leave above items in Diane Zehr's office. We'll lock them up to be safe.

The youth had a great time roller skating Sunday evening. Lori impressed the group with her skating backwards, and there was someone skating in "Z's" around the rink.

Don't miss Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. this week. There has been a duel of bowling balls that has to be determined.



WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you will be (or if you know of someone who will be) graduating this year from high school or college, please call the church office at 744-3239 as we wish to recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 1 at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

C.W.F. Blessing Boxes

Please turn your **Blessing Boxes** into Evelyn Yeoman no later than April 27. Thank you!

FIRST TIME VISITORS IN WORSHIP ON APRIL 13, 1997

Martha Snively and **Mary Chandler** (no addresses given).

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE (K-5TH GRADE)

We're in our third year of the journey and our children are learning about the mission efforts of Paul and the early church.

As one of their activities, they wrote to our Global Mission Partners, Ellen & Andy Collins who serve the church in Nepal. Following is the response letter they received from Ellen.

May we all be aware and in prayer that the work of our church family all around the world may flourish.

I say **HOORAY** for our children who care!

Dear Jeremy, Justin, Cody, Natali, Shelby, Jeff, Billy, Emily, Sara, Eric and Polly,

HI! Thanks for your nice note and the picture. We have never gotten a letter from Fort Wayne before, so we were really happy to hear from all of you!

We came to Nepal over 3 years ago. We came by plane. In the old days missionaries came here by boat. The plane trip took us 30 hours. We live in Kathmandu. It's the capital of Nepal. It's a big city in a valley all surrounded by mountains. We work in Kathmandu part of the time, and outside the city too. Andy is a photographer and videographer. He is the manager of the office that makes videos, slides, books and other stuff for the mission here. I (Ellen) am a health teacher. I teach Nepali people in my project how to teach about health. Sometimes I go out to villages with them and help them teach. We teach about cleaning your teeth, feeding nutritious foods to babies and kids, planting vegetable gardens, and things like that. We go to a big Nepali church. It has lots of singing. People clap and play tambourines and drums. Our little boy Christopher loves church (he's just 1 1/2 years old). Christopher speaks Nepali and sings Nepali songs. (He knows some English too).

We really do like hearing from Sunday School kids so we hope you'll write back. It you want, you could send some letters to some Nepali kids we know and they could write back.

God bless you! Hope you learned a lot about missions!

Love,
Ellen, Andy and Chris Collins

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 213
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING APRIL 20

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ralph Church & Anne Moll
10:45 a.m. Eileen Klepfer & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown,
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, S. Brickley, J. Franklin, L. McFarland, B. Smith, B. Widmer, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION

B. Bier, S. Brickley, E. Rieke

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ken Taylor & Bob Smith

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
11:00 a.m. Drama Group
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers

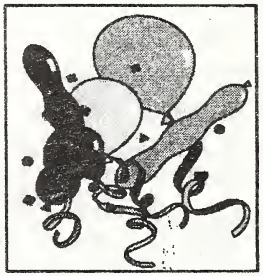
SUNDAY, APRIL 20
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adventure Group
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Adventure Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group
5:00 p.m. Newcomers Gathering

MONDAY, APRIL 21
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 22
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
10:00 a.m. Adventure Group

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23
7:00 p.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
5:45 p.m. Carillon



MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS APRIL 23-29

Becca Widmer(23), Megan Geroff(23), Crystal Holmes(23), Dick Mey(23), Grady Vanderwall(24), Vera Watson(25), Jessie Fern Woodward(28)

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Ft. Wayne, IN
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

April 23, 1997 Volume 54, No. 16

GOING OUT FOR DINNER?

SIGN UP TODAY

DINNERS OF 8 is an opportunity for enjoying great food and even greater fellowship. Eight people are grouped together for a dinner at the "host home." This is a great opportunity to meet different people in the church, and build some new relationships. There is a card enclosed in the newsletter you may fill out and mail to the church or bring it to worship on Sunday morning.

If you have been a part of one of these groups in the past you may be willing to be a "Host" this time. We need people to be hosts for this to be successful. The host contacts the others and agrees on a date for getting together. The host provides the main course and beverages and the others bring vegetables, salad, rolls and dessert.

Deadline to turn in your reservation card is Sunday, May 4. We will then send you a list showing you the group you have been assigned to and who will contact you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

May 18 - Pentecost Sunday! Final Sunday of the 50 Day Adventure. **ONE SERVICE - 10:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 A.M. WITH A PITCH IN DINNER AFTER CHURCH.**

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

Last Sunday evening we had 14 new people at our home, who were interested in learning more about the church. It was encouraging to hear stories of how different people have found their way to First Christian Church.

I believe God had a big part in bringing these folks to First Christian. What is there at First that can offer encouragement and guidance to those who come seeking God?

What can we learn from the new people God is bringing into our church?

"Those who carry torches will pass them onto others."

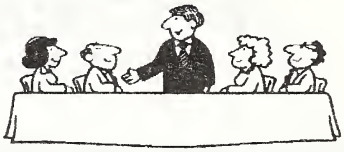
Plato

Peace,

Jerry

P.S. I hope all the women are coming to the Mad Hatter Tea Party because there have been a number of us men who have been recruited as servers. It might be your only time to be pampered by a large group of men!

D.M.A. EVENT.....



"STAY SAFE" SESSION

A carry-in is planned for noon, Tuesday, May 6, 1997 in Fellowship Hall.

Officer Wharton, Fort Wayne Crime Protection Bureau, will discuss personal and home security measures. This timely subject promises to be a **DON'T MISS** event!

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO CARE FOR OUR VISITORS

We have some folks who baked delicious desserts for a New Friends of the Church meeting that was held at the Zehr's last Sunday evening. Fourteen new folks and six members of the Evangelism Committee enjoyed pies and cheesecake and the world's best chocolate cake.

Thanks to Caren Wise, Elinor Place, Linda Stover, Carole Davis, Judy Church for extending their gifts on behalf of the church to welcome new folks.

SpringVIEW

Spring View will give you a glimpse of the '97-98 CWF study named "Church Alive"; an option of attending at least 2 seminars that will be offered, a time of fellowship with other CWF women and a time of reflection and worship together. This is an important event and I hope to see you there!

Sue Brey

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you will be (or if you know of someone who will be) graduating this year from high school or college, please call the church office at 744-3239 as we wish to recognize our graduates on Sunday, June 1 at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Joys & Concerns

Please keep **Donald Smith,** who is at home, in your prayers.

Our prayers are with **Michael & Laura Kurtz** in the event of a miscarriage.

Ed Hall had surgery Monday at Lutheran Hospital.

Janet Weicker had outpatient surgery Tuesday at Lutheran Hospital.

Vince Wells will have back surgery on Tuesday, April 29.

Keep **Gary Falbe** in your prayers as he will be having tests on his knee.

C.W.F. Blessing Boxes

Please turn your **Blessing Boxes** into Evelyn Yeoman no later than April 27. Thank you!

FIRST TIME VISITORS IN WORSHIP ON APRIL 20, 1997

Anna Hatch, 3602 Felician Street 46803.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEER POTLUCK

All food bank volunteers are invited to a special meeting and potluck lunch on Friday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the changes in process with our food bank ministry.

Please call Steve Vachon at 744-6161 if you cannot attend.

WORKDAY AT BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP SATURDAY, MAY 3 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. LUNCH PROVIDED!

Anyone interested in getting our camp ready for the coming season? May 3rd promises to be a great day of fellowship, food and good hard work made enjoyable by the fellowship with many other Christian brothers and sisters! The First Christian youth group plans on participating, so youth group members mark your calendars.

Please call the church to indicate your intention to go so that the camp may know how much to prepare for lunch. Arrive early at the church so we can leave by 8:00 a.m.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... 14 friends and newcomers of the church were at Zehr's last Sunday evening for coffee and dessert?

Did you know..... that the new rest room has been started in the back of the sanctuary?

Did you know..... that the drama group is back meeting again?

Did you know..... that Lori Crouter was singing tenor last Sunday, pinch hitting for Bob Bier?

Did you know..... that the kitchen stove is functional again?

Did you know..... that Diane Johnson (church secretary) is a notary and the service is free?

Did you know..... the church now has a fax machine?

Do you know..... why the Spectrum Room is called the Spectrum Room?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

1997 ONE CHURCH ONE OFFENDER GOLF OUTING

On Thursday, June 26, we need golfers and sponsors for the 4th Annual One Church One Offender Golf Outing. Helping this year is Jim Bushey, George Davis and Ron Wise. The cost for 18 holes of golf, food, drinks (pop only), and cart is $40.00. There will be prizes and fun for everyone.

If you have a foursome already that is great, but if you have one or two players we can match you up with some other folks and you'll have a great time. If you can't play and would like to be a sponsor the cost is $25.00 for an individual sponsor and $100.00 for a business sponsor.

The Foellinger Foundation has agreed to match dollar for dollar whatever the local church gives to our program. Your money given through the church will be doubled up to $5,000.00. This is a very important event to our program. We have only 2 fund raisers during the year, and it is important that we have your support. If you would like to sign up to play or be a sponsor call Charlie Hatten, Jim Bushey, George Davis or Ron Wise.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS ONCE AGAIN PLANNING AN OUTING TO SEE THE FORT WAYNE WIZARD'S

Long range plans are being made for First Christian Church to take in a Wizard's baseball game for the current season at Fort Wayne's Memorial Stadium.

West Michigan will play Fort Wayne in a 2:00 p.m. afternoon game on Sunday, July 20th. We hope many First Christian members will take advantage of special reduced rates for our group of $5.00 per ticket in the reserved grandstand section.

Our church will receive a mention on the P.A. system during the course of the game and also on the radio while the game is in progress.

Members of all ages are invited to attend. The park has swings and slides for the wee ones on which they can use their energies as well.

More details as they become available, and as game time approaches.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

1997 MAIL CARRIERS FOOD COLLECTION

Would you like to be a part of history? On Saturday, May 10, 1997, Associated Churches and the Mail Carriers will collect more food in one day than has ever been collected in Fort Wayne before. We will collect over 200,000 pounds of food in ONE day. This will serve all our food banks for almost 3 months. Last year we collected almost as much food as Indianapolis and Detroit.

There are several different jobs that need to be done. Listed below is a list of people we need to make this happen. If you have only an hour, or can work all day, we need you! A neat thing for a parent and child to do is walk with the mail carrier helping them carry the food back to the jeeps. It will be a blessing to spend time serving God and helping them understand some things going on in our city. If you would like to help, please call Charlie Hatten (447-2649), or the church office to sign up.

- Food Sorters - Meet at Diplomat Plaza Post Office around 9:00 a.m. and sort food being brought in by the mail carriers. The food is separated into bins of canned goods, glass, and paper products.

- Bag Buddies - Meet at Diplomat Plaza Post Office around 8:00 a.m. to walk with mail carriers collecting the food. Bag Buddies are not allowed to ride in the postal jeeps so you must provide your own transportation. This is a great way to see the neighborhood. You won't believe all the different types of mail boxes and where some people put them.

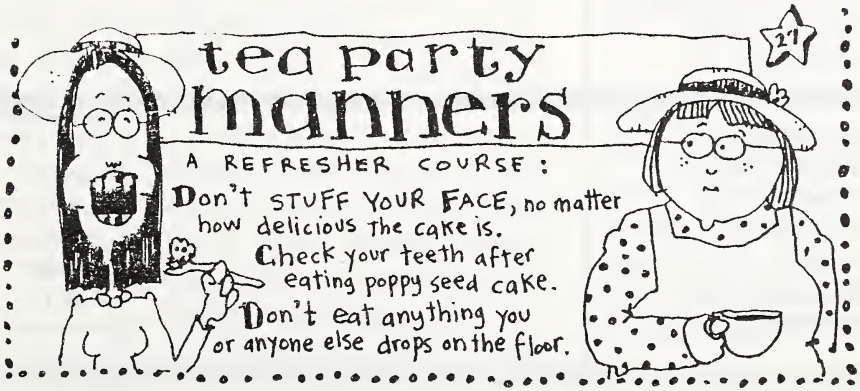
- Food Boxers - Meet at the main warehouse at the corner of Monroe and Wayne Street around 5:00 p.m. to put the food in smaller boxes that are then delivered to the food banks over the next few weeks.

FOOD DRIVE

BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP SCHEDULE FOR 1997

	Dates	Directors	Cost
Young Adults	May 21-24	Kyle Harris	90.00
New Beginnings	July 21-23	Diane Erickson/Leanne Gilbert	70.00
(Entering Grades 3,4)	July 31-Aug. 2	Steve Workman/Connie Workman	70.00
Young Disciples	June 16-21	Mark O'Brien/Paul Champion	136.00
(Entering Grades 5,6)	June 30-July 5	Olga Bailey/Linda Klinck	136.00
	August 4-9	Becky Carr	136.00
Chi Rho Camp	June 9-14	Roger Gardner/Sue Gardner	136.00
(Entering Grades 7,8)	July 7-12	Mark Poindexter	136.00
CYF Conference	June 23-28	Jenni Crowley/Charlie Mennonno	148.00
(Entering Grades 9-12, Completing 12)	July 14-19	Mark Anderson	148.00
Family Camp	Aug. 29-Sept.1	Carolyn Scanlan	Varying Fees

Camp forms are available at the church office.



REGISTER TODAY BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 744-3239

SERVING APRIL 27

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Eunice Conrad & Kathy Blocher
10:45 a.m. John Kelly & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, E. Vandergriff

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

R. Church - E. Place
J. Kelly - S. Brickley
K. Blocher - K. Place
A. Moll - J. McGrew

COMMUNION PREPARATION

B. Bier, S. Brickley, E. Rieke

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Eve Gorman & Marlene Crouse

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, APRIL 27
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adventure Group
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Adventure Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, APRIL 28
7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, APRIL 29
10:00 a.m. Adventure Group

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30
7:00 p.m. Jerry Zehr's PRC
7:00 p.m. Adventure Group
7:00 p.m. Friends LIFE Group at Stover's

THURSDAY, MAY 1
5:30 p.m. Capital Committee
5:45 p.m. Carillon
7:00 p.m. By-Laws Committee

FRIDAY, MAY 2
11:00 p.m. Food Bank Volunteer Potluck

SATURDAY, MAY 3
9:00 a.m. Northern Lights CWF SpringVIEW
9:00 a.m. Workday at Camp Barbee

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 30-MAY 6

Mildred Hutchinson(30), Gini Brown(2), Doris Snook(3), Inez Petty(3), Larry Busse(3), Ray Stover(4), Lea Jackson(5), Nick Lyons(5)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

April 30, 1997 Volume 54, No. 17

WELCOME DESTINY...AND DOMINQUE AND SCOTT AND ELIZABETH AND NATHANIEL AND STEPHAN AND JONATHAN AND BRANDON!

"In order to read a word, a child must hear it spoken."

It isn't just in Philadelphia that volunteers are being called to action. Last Thursday, First Christian Church began our own tutoring program for eight students from South Wayne Elementary School. As one of 16 community sites for the city wide literacy effort called PROJECT READS, our goal is to develop effective reading skills in all children kindergarten through third grades.

Teresa Hatten is coordinating this along with 10 tutors who include: Diane Zehr, Elinor Place, Vince Wells, Eunice Conrad, Laura Whitworth, George Cole, Marge Ohr and Anne Moll.

What we have learned is that children cannot read a word until they have heard the word spoken. So, we are learning to enjoy words together as a first step.

Each Thursday the school bus drops off our 8 children and we all gather for a snack and joke time. (Question: Why did the lady wear a helmet to dinner? Answer: She's on a crash diet). Then we read limericks together. Then, for 40 minutes each child had a one-on-one chance to choose a book and read with their tutors. We ended by reading together a Shel Silverstein poem. The children all said their favorite part of the hour was reading. We ask your prayers for these and all children who are growing up in God's world. — Diane

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

THE MIGHTY "Z" DUCK WINS.....

Last Sunday evening the youth group had a great time bowling with some of the adults from the church. There had been a challenge made to one of our ministers, Rev. Jerry Zehr, that he was too old to bowl a decent game.

Even though his average at one time was "152", no one believed him. The first game ended with Larry Brey bowling a 194. Rev. Jerry bowling a 175, and Christi Deck bowling a 155. The other youth and adults bowled also, but there was the three in contention for top honors. At the end of the second game, Christi Deck had a total of 289 (second game-136), Larry Brey had a total of 345 (second game-151), and the Reverend came through with a total of 365 (second game-190).

The evening was a lot of fun with Christi Deck, Lori Crouter, Larry Brey and Jim Shearer having high team score. Larry Brey having high game of 194, and the Rev. Jerry having high individual total of 365. Melissa Brey had high game for the youngest member of youth group with a 130.

Congratulations to everyone. We love our youth!!

Peace,

Jerry

D.M.A. EVENT.....

"STAY SAFE" SESSION

A carry-in is planned for noon, Tuesday, May 6, 1997 in Fellowship Hall.

Officer Wharton, Fort Wayne Crime Protection Bureau, will discuss personal and home security measures. This timely subject promises to be a **DON'T MISS** event!

ATTENTION CHOIR!

The Chancel Choir will practice on the following dates in order to get ready to sing on Pentecost Sunday, May 18:

Saturday, May 10 - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 17 - 1:00 p.m.

WORKDAY AT BARBEE
CHRISTIAN CAMP
SATURDAY, MAY 3
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
LUNCH PROVIDED!

Anyone interested in getting our camp ready for the coming season? This Saturday, May 3rd promises to be a great day of fellowship, food and good hard work made enjoyable by the fellowship with many other Christian brothers and sisters! The **First Christian youth group** plans on participating.

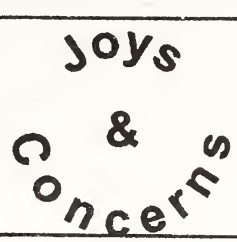
Arrive at the church no later than 8:00 a.m.

ALSO.....

The youth group will also meet this coming Sunday, May 4 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

ALSO.....

The Civic Theatre and Physicians Health Plan will present **COTTON PATCH GOSPEL**, directed by Al Franklin, at the Performing Arts Center on May 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18. Tickets are $14 for adults and $13 for seniors and $5 for children 18 and under, with a $2 Wings Club membership. Some of the youth from First Christian will be attending on May 17. Call the Civic Theatre box office for reservations at 424-5220, between



Vince Wells had back surgery on Tuesday, April 29.

Janet Weicker is home and the results were very good after outpatient surgery last week.

Dawn Pierce broke her ankle.

Glenn Miller has problems with his leg and **Glenn and Lola** would like your prayers.

Our prayers are with **Ray and Linda Stover** as their garage was broken in to last week.

Dick Mey turned 60 on April 23 (is this a joy or concern Dick?).

The Vanderwall family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and cards during the time of Whitney's surgery at Riley Hospital.

She is back home now and doing much better.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 213
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that **Eric McFarland** had his 10th birthday on April 30?

***Did you know*.....**that on the first Sunday of each month the banquet room at MCL Cafeteria has been reserved by First Christian Church? We will be dining there after the 10:45 service. Come join us for food and fellowship.

***Did you know*.....**that Tammy Deck tested for and earned a yellow belt in karate on April 26, 1997?

***Did you know*.....**that 10 men will be going to the Promise Keepers this year?

***Did you know*.....**82 people have signed up for the Mad Hatter Tea Party this Sunday?

***Did you know*.....**that Charles Byrket was featured in the News Sentinel last week?

***Did you know*.....**that Charles and Ardith Wrisk have been married for 72 years?

***Did you know*.....**that Frank and Fran Beckwith have been married for 25 years?

***Did you know*.....**that Lori Crouter and Crystal Holmes went to the Chi Rho Jam in Indy last weekend? Ask Crystal about Jordan!

***Did you know*.....**that 365 cancer pads have been made by our sewing group for the Allen County Cancer Society for use in private homes?

FIRST CHRISTIAN IS PLANNING AN OUTING TO SEE THE FORT WAYNE WIZARD'S

First Christian Church will be going to see the Fort Wayne Wizard's on Sunday, July 20. Reduced rates for First Christian members and friends will be available at $5.00 per ticket if purchased in advance.

You may buy them at the church office. Get your order in as soon as possible since the money has to be in to the Wizards office by June 1st. Fifty tickets have been reserved for the occasion.

First Christian Church will be named as the church participating at that days game during the course of the contest, both on the scoreboard and during the radios play-by-play broadcast.

Come one, come all, to the ball park for the Wizard's game on Sunday afternoon, July 20 at 2:00 p.m. The little ones can utilize the swings and slides for their excess energies.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR DINNERS OF EIGHT

If you are interested in signing up for Dinners of Eight, call the church office by this weekend.

SERVING MAY 4

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. Eileen Klepfer & Kenneth Taylor

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Schuricht, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Smith, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

G. Brown, K. Bushey, L. McFarland

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 3

8:00 a.m. Youth meet at church to go to Camp Barbee
9:00 a.m. Workday at Camp Barbee
9:00 a.m. Northern Lights CWF Springview

SUNDAY, MAY 4

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adventure Group
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Mad Hatter Tea Party
5:00 p.m. Adventure Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

MONDAY, MAY 5

7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MAY 6

12:00 noon D.M.A. Potluck
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

7:00 p.m. Adventure Group

THURSDAY, MAY 8

5:45 p.m. Carillon

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MAY 7-13

Dave Arnos(7), Jackie Keller(8), William Branstrator(8), Joan Franklin(10), Laurie Berry(12), Christina Parker(12), Claire Ewing(12), Bernice Schnobel(13), Donna Heimann(13)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

May 7, 1997 Volume 54, No. 17

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A GIFT IDEA FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Do you need a gift idea for your Mother's Day present? Tell her you will bring her to worship this Sunday! No complaining, no resistance, and buy her a flower! **It will please your mother in heaven as well!!**

The Bell Choir will be ringing and Rev. Diane Zehr will be preaching on the theme, "Encountering God".

PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 18, 1997

ONE SERVICE - 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 A.M.

POTLUCK DINNER
AFTER SERVICE

This is the final day of our 50 Day Adventure and we want to celebrate the completion of the journey.

It is also the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church.

It will be a great service with a dinner afterwards!!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

As we come to the end of the 50 Day Adventure, we will begin the next part of this journey. We will come together as a congregation and discern what God has been revealing to us through this study. What is our purpose? What should be our ministry plan for the next three to five years? These will be the questions we will try to answer in this discernment process.

How will we do this? The elders are meeting this week to plan our next step of action. We will let you know once they decide.

I hope you feel the same importance I do for us to have a ministry plan. I believe we need to feel excited about the direction our church is going. This direction cannot be the vision of any one minister, but should be the vision of the people. The vision, of course, is from God but it will be the communities discernment that will make it become a reality.

See you Sunday.

Peace,
Jerry

REAL DEAL FOR BASEBALL FANS!

HEAR THEE, HEAR THEE!

Everyone who orders tickets for the Fort Wayne Wizards game on Sunday, July 20th (there are fifty available) can also take advantage of a special deal later in the season! All can also purchase tickets at **HALF** price for either Thursday, August 14th or Thursday, August 21st for just $2.50 for each reserved grandstand seat! How about that!

So, be sure to get your orders (and money) in early to realize this great bonus!

In case you haven't noticed, the Wizards are winning so far this season, and they have what baseball experts say, is a future major league shortstop in Luis Rivas.

Drop your money off at the church office as soon as possible — $5.00 per seat. **The money must go to the Wizards office by June 20th!**

PLANTING A CHURCH

You have an opportunity to join with Disciples around the state of Indiana in planting new Disciple Churches in our state. You can join the church planters club by donating $100 through this year to our Regional Church. We hope to have 100 people giving $100 this year to our church planters club. Pledge cards will be in the bulletin Sunday or in the church office.

FOOD DRIVE

WE NEED YOU! This Saturday the Letter Carriers of Fort Wayne will collect over 200,000 pounds of food for the Associated Churches Food Bank, They need our help. If you could help from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m., or 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. this Saturday, May 10 it would be great!

If you can help during some other time, we also could use your help. This is a chance to show our kids how to put faith into action. It is also a chance to show our young people how to help others.

If it is like last year, you will probably find the young people showing us how to help others. Please call me at 447-2649 so I can get you on the volunteer list.

Charlie Hatten

We wish to thank Laura McFarland, Caren Wise, Becca Widmer, Lori Vandergriff and Diane Zehr for making the Mad Hatter Tea Party a fun time for all!

Also, a big thank you to all the men for the great tea party!

From: Those who attended

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with **Dawn Pierce** as she fell and broke her shoulder.

Congratulations to **Kristen & Alberto Pena** in the birth of a son. **Alec Jordan Pena** was born on May 2, 1997 in Florida. Also, congratulations to **Eric & Marilyn Rieke** who are the grandparents and **Gene & Eileen Klepfer**, great-grandparents!

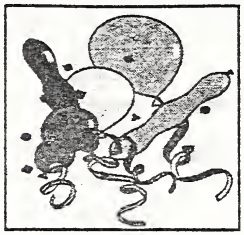
UPCOMING YOUTH CALENDAR

Saturday, May 10 - canned food drive. Contact Charlie Hatten at 447-2649 to find out where to meet.

Sunday, May 11 - Serve for coffee hour.

Sunday, May 18 - Cook-out at Moll's. Skating at Bell's.

Saturday, May 31 - Yard work at Franklin's.



ATTENTION CHOIR AND CARILLON MEMBERS.....

It has been a glorious year of music-making at First Christian and I want to thank you all for the hard work and dedication that is the hallmark of all of you involved in the music ministry.

And now — it is time to party! We'll be having our annual music ministry party on the 18th of May at 5:00 p.m. at the Prechtl's house (see directions below).

Bring a covered dish and a white elephant present, and we will have a great time in fellowship together.

Thank you again and let's all be there!

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Prechtl

DIRECTIONS: Take Aboite Center Road west from Jefferson. After passing over I-69 you will come to a light. Proceed past light 7/10 of a mile and turn right into Aboite Meadows. We are the first house on left (go around median and come back). Address: 4118 Turf Lane. Phone: 432-2076.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know.....that Dawn Pierce fell and broke her shoulder?

Did you know.....that Adam Falbe pitched a no-hitter last week in baseball?

Did you know.....that 100 persons attended the Mad Hatter Tea Party?

Did you know.....that on Sunday, May 18 we will only have one worship service at 10:00 a.m.?

Did you know.....that Diane Zehr invited Marilyn Manson to dinner?

Did you know.....Art and Marge Thomas are back from Florida and Bruce and Ruth Stone will be home soon also?

Did you know.....Margaret Prechtl will be going to Japan for two weeks performing concerts in our Sister City?

Did you know.....Jenna Wise (age 7) and Shelby McFarland (age 6) coordinated the fashion show for the Mad Hatter Tea Party and did a fine job?

Did you know.....Steve Mullen will graduate from Washington University in St. Louis on May 16? He graduates with a degree in African Studies.

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

Many Doorsteps One Mission

Basic Mission Finance

PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY

"Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...." Acts 2:3-4

The descent of the Holy Spirit at the first Pentecost brought an exciting, quickening fire to the spirit of Christians as they began to share and grow the church in the world.

In today's world, Disciples ministries sustain our spirits as we share the love of Christ. Our 1997 *Pentecost Special Day Offering for Basic Mission Finance* highlights Disciples ***Prayer and Spirituality***—one of our churchwide Mission Imperatives passed by the 1995 General Assembly. When you give to your church's *Pentecost Special Day Offering,* your gift supports ministries of spiritual renewal throughout North America and around the world. Those ministries include:

- *Homeland Ministries' "People of the Covenant,"* a program of spiritual enrichment, Bible study, and prayer for small groups within Disciples congregations.
- Support to students in our institutions of higher education as they follow a call to ministry.
- Your church's presence throughout North America and in 85 countries throughout the world, sharing the promise of the Gospel.
- Support for regions, as they provide spiritual development and renewal to pastors.

Your gift also supports our churchwide Mission Imperatives of teaching and youth, care and compassion, and evangelism. Gifts work through Disciples congregations, 36 regions, 11 general ministry units, and 22 Disciples-related higher education institutions.

Give as you have received. Remember that your help is needed to continue an outpouring of God's spirit by our church throughout North America and the world.

Thank you.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(4-27)	187	$3,523.88	$2,348.18
Year-to-date	183	$59,905.96	$55,823.07

SERVING MAY 11

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. George Bruckman & Bill Crouse
10:45 a.m. Gene Klepfer & Dick Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, E. Yeoman, L. McFarland, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, B. Widmer, R. Wise

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

E. Klepfer, E. Gorman
K. Taylor - D. Schuricht
S. Hayes - O. McDougle
J. Ohneck - M. McDougle

COMMUNION PREPARATION

G. Brown, K. Bushey, L. McFarland

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ron & Caren Wise

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 10
3:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 11
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, MAY 12
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MAY 13
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. Administrative Committee
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, MAY 15
3:45 p.m. Project READS
5:45 p.m. Carillon
7:00 p.m. Space Allocation Committee

SATURDAY, MAY 17
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MAY 14-20

Matthew Busse(14), Lila Russell(15), Mary New(15), Jane Rench(16), Sam Hayes(17), Art Thomas(18), Tawnia Comer(19), Jerry Zehr(19), Thelma Onion(19), Earl Snouffer(19), Shirley Howell(19)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

May 14, 1997 Volume 54, No. 18

PENTECOST

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 18

ONE SERVICE-THIS SUNDAY, MAY 18
10:00 A.M.
PENTECOST CELEBRATION

This Sunday we will celebrate the completion of the 50 Day Adventure and the birth of the early church at Pentecost. We will have a guest artist, Aubrey Anderson, who will sing with our choir and sing a solo selection as well. Rev. Zehr will send us into Pentecost with a sermon on the theme of "Anticipating a Great Future."

COMPLETION OF THE 50 DAY ADVENTURE
9:00 A.M.-S. S. HOUR

During the Sunday School hour we want to invite everyone to the Fellowship Hall for a time of sharing and discussion about the themes of our adventure. **You do not** need to belong to a Sunday School class to join in this discussion. This is for everyone of the church. It should be an illuminating discussion.

POTLUCK DINNER AFTER WORSHIP

After the worship service we will have a potluck dinner. The Fellowship Committee **will provide table settings and drinks.** All you need to provide is the food!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

Now that we have completed the 50 Day Study, what's next? There is a ministry planning team that is being selected to take us into our next phase. This team will meet through the summer to complete background information on: demographics of the community, needs assessment of surrounding areas, and strategy to develop a mission plan. In September, the congregation will come together with this information to develop our ministry plan for the next 3-5 years.

The T.V. show, ***"Behind the Headlines"***, will begin airing on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. on Channel 10. Rev. Mike Nickleson will be my first guest, discussing the concerns of the citizen action coalition. This is a group of people concerned about the complaints that have been made against the police over the last couple of years. Is there police harassment? Is this a race issue? Are these citizens over reacting? Tune in, it was an interesting discussion.

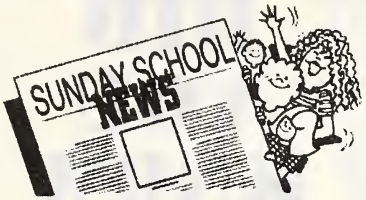
Peace,

Jerry

FIRST CHRISTIAN VOCALIST TO BE HIGHLIGHTED AT WIZARD'S BALL GAME!

The feature of the day at the Fort Wayne Wizard's baseball game on Sunday afternoon, July 20th at Memorial Stadium will come in the bottom of the seventh inning when the matchless Lori Crouter of First Christian Church will warble, "Take Me Out To The Ballgame!" Not only will she be heard, but she will be **seen** as well, as her singing perch will be atop the Wizard's dugout. Remember, this is First Christian Church's day at the ball park, when all members and friends can acquire reserved grandstand tickets at the reduced rate of $5.00 per seat. Also, this will enable each ticket purchaser to qualify for a reserved seat at half price at a future Wizard's ball game on one of two Thursday night games in August, for only $2.50 per seat.

Get your orders in now along with your cash to the church office, where Diane Johnson will thank you for your efforts. Our church will be mentioned on both the stadium's scoreboard and on the radio play-by-play broadcast that night.



JUNE 1 - 9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATION "JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE" COMPLETED!

Can you believe it has been three years that we have been on our Journey through the Bible with 3 year olds - 5th graders?

Our journey is nearing the completion and all are invited to the service of graduation for those children on June 1 at 9:30 a.m.

We hope parents and many other adults will come to hear what the children of our church have learned on their journey over the last 3 years.

Even if we're not parents, we are still proud of all our children and their teachers have accomplished.

Come and celebrate with us in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m!

The Rachel Group....will

meet on Tuesday, May 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Show & tell - favorite hobby - talk - Women of the Bible.

Joys & Concerns

Congratulations to **Nakia and Jeanne Royal** as their daughter, **Alexis Renee**, was dedicated at worship last Sunday.

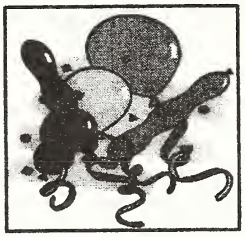
Our sympathy is extended to **Paul & Ruth Yentes** in the death of a brother-in-law who died in Florida.

A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS

At the Elders meeting on May 6, one of the subjects discussed was the need of transportation for some of our people who are unable to drive. Comments were made that we have several people who would be very happy to provide this assistance. We would like to know who you are and whether you prefer to "pick-up" for 1st or 2nd service. Please call the church office at 744-3239.

Mrs. Beulah Timmons, whose husband was a "Timothy" from our church desires to attend, however, she needs transportation. She lives on High Street close to St. Francis College. Please contact the office so that we may put you in touch with Beulah.

George Bruckman



ATTENTION CHOIR AND CARILLON MEMBERS..... NOTE CHANGE!

It has been a glorious year of music-making at First Christian and I want to thank you all for the hard work and dedication that is the hallmark of all of you involved in the music ministry.

And now — it is time to party! We'll be having our annual music ministry party on the **21st of June** at 1:00 p.m. at the Prechtl's house (see directions below).

Bring a covered dish and a white elephant present, and we will have a great time in fellowship together.

Thank you again and let's all be there!

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Prechtl

DIRECTIONS: Take Aboite Center Road west from Jefferson. After passing over I-69 you will come to a light. Proceed past light 7/10 of a mile and turn right into Aboite Meadows. We are the first house on left (go around median and come back). Address: 4118 Turf Lane. Phone: 432-2076.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... that approximately 20 seniors enjoyed a potluck luncheon and program last week at the church?

Did you know..... Mary Wilhelm has been a volunteer in the church office for 12 years, and staples the bulletins every week?

Did you know..... that Jack Lindsay donates the trash bags to the church free of cost?

Did you know..... that Donald Smith is going to be 91 years old on Sunday, May 25? You may send cards to him at the following address: 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E 421, Fort Wayne, IN 46816.

Did you know..... Bill Crouse and Earl Plummer were back in worship last Sunday?

Did you know..... Rev. Jerry Zehr preached and 35 others attended an evening worship at the Renaissance Baptist Church last Sunday?

Did you know..... that there is only one worship service this Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Did you know..... that Bill Franklin is our representative for the Church Planters Club?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday, May 18 - Cook-out at Moll's, 5:00 p.m. followed by skating at Bell's in New Haven, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 25 - NO MEETING

Saturday, May 31 - Yard work at Franklin's

Sunday, June 1 - Meeting 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Plan carnival. Painting room.

Sunday, June 8 - KIDS CARNIVAL - 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Sunday, June 15 - NO MEETING (FATHER'S DAY)

Sunday, June 22 - Meeting 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Painting youth room.

Sunday, June 29 - Meeting 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Paint and play.

JUNE 1 GRADUATE RECOGNITION DAY

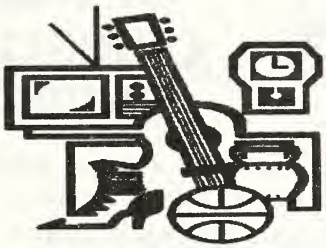
For many students among us, June marks an ending and a beginning. Our church family celebrates this milestone in their lives on June 1 during the 10:45 service.

Following are the names we are aware of who are graduating: Jason Cobb, Chandra Duncan, Adam Falbe, Lisa Bond, Josie Quick, Kristie Howard, Steve Mullen, Barb Hayes, Christi Deck.

Those who are with us in worship on Sunday, June 1, will be recognized.

If your name is not on this list, and you are graduating, please let us know!

JUNE 14 RUMMAGE SALE AT F.C.C.



It's time to bring your garage sale best to the church for our annual Rummage Sale.

We also need workers to help sort, price and sell on that day and during the week before.

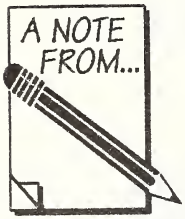
Our organizer this year is Judy Church, so please tell her or Diane Zehr if you are able to help.

You can put items for the sale in fellowship hall on the stage.

I want to thank everyone for their phone calls, prayers, and cards that were sent to me during the time of my back surgery, and my recovery at home. Thank you so much.

Vince Wells

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(5-4)	212	$3,523.88	$5,990.66
Year-to-date	185	$63,429.84	$61,813.73



TO: THE STAFF, MEMBERS, AND FRIENDS OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

It is with a good deal of difficulty, and with lots of prayer and guidance, that I must announce my resignation as church secretary of First Christian Church effective May 23, 1997.

This decision was not an easy one to make. Being secretary here for almost 18 years has been a very important part of my life. I have, at many times, felt more connected to First Christian than I have to my own church home. The many friends that I have made over the past years will never be forgotten. You have all touched my life in many ways and will be remembered always.

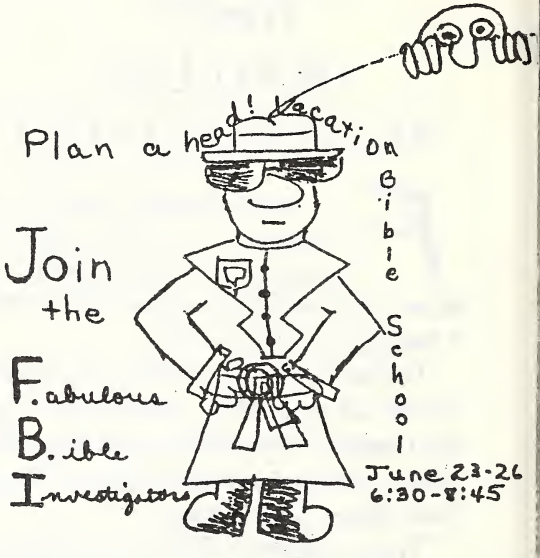
I will be more than happy to assist the church in the next two weeks in order to make this transition easier for all.

Thank you for all the wonderful years we have shared together.

Sincerely,

Diane Johnson

P.S. I have accepted the position of Executive Secretary to the President of Dreibelbiss Title Company.



This is the time to put on your calendar our week of Vacation Bible School. This year we have a detective theme. Join the F.B.I. (Fabulous Bible Investigators), and learn how we received God's Holy word throughout the centuries and into our hands for this present day.

Secret codes, how the message survived, how it was given, who put the Bible together, and other topics like this will be investigated in our Investigation Room, our Laboratory, our Rapid Response Room and in Break Time.

A class for adults will be taught by Dr. George Mather, retired former pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

It's an <u>all</u> church, <u>all</u> age event.

DISCOVER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 213
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING MAY 18
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 A.M.

ELDERS

10:00 a.m. Charles McGrew & John Kelly

DIACONATE & GREETERS

10:00 a.m. D. Heimann, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Rieke, K. Scott, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

A. Cook, J. McGrew, J. Mounsey

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ken Taylor & Bob Smith

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 17

1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

SUNDAY, MAY 18

9:00 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. **ONE** Worship Service
5:00 p.m. Youth Group cook-out at Moll's followed by skating at Bell's in New Haven, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 19

7:00 p.m. Married With Children LIFE Group
7:30 p.m. Young and the Restless LIFE Group

TUESDAY, MAY 20

9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Committee

THURSDAY, MAY 22

3:45 p.m. Project READS

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS
MAY 21-27

Bob Hendricks(21), Lori Vandergriff(21), Amy Jenkins(21), Jenny Zumwalt(22), Jay Bixenman(23), Jennifer Mounsey(23), Virginia Bruckman(25), Donald C. Smith(25), Harold Nordblom(26), Kristin Pena(26), Jenny Baitz(27), Ron Wise(27)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

May 21, 1997 Volume 54, No. 19

GOING AWAY PARTY FOR DIANE JOHNSON- JUNE 1- SEE "HERE TO ZEHR" ARTICLE

JUNE 1 GRADUATE RECOGNITION DAY

For many students among us, June marks an ending and a beginning. Our church family celebrates this milestone in their lives on June 1 during the 10:45 service.

Following are the names we are aware of who are graduating: Jason Cobb, Chandra Duncan, Adam Falbe, Lisa Bond, Kristie Howard, Steve Mullen, Barb Hayes, Christi Deck. If your name is not on this list, and you are graduating, please let us know!

Those who are with us in worship on Sunday, June 1, will be recognized.

JUNE 1- SS GRADUATION "JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE" COMPLETED

Can you believe it has been three years that we have been on our Journey through the Bible with 3 year olds - 5th graders?

Our journey is nearing the completion and all are invited to the service of graduation for those children on June 1 at 9:30 a.m.

We hope parents and many other adults will come to hear what the children of our church have learned on their journey over the last 3 years.

Even if we're not parents we are still proud of all our children, and their teachers, have accomplished.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

It was a shock to all of us to find out that Diane Johnson would be leaving as our church secretary. Eighteen years is a long time! We have been fortunate to have someone of the caliber of Diane Johnson as our secretary for so many years. We are happy for her in her new job, but sad for us to lose someone who has been such a valuable asset to our congregation.

On June 1, during the second service, we will recognize Diane Johnson for her many years of service.

If you would like to contribute money to this love offering, send your check or money to the church and mark it, **"Secretaries Gift."** That way, the money will not go in to the general fund.

I will be collecting the gifts so Diane will not see them before June 1.

Diane's last day is Friday, May 23 so give her a call to express your appreciation.

Peace,

Jerry

GET YOUR RESERVATIONS AND MONEY IN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE WIZARD'S BALL GAME

We are just a little under a month before the CASH is due in to the First Christian Church office for the Fort Wayne Wizard's baseball game on Sunday, July 20 at Memorial Stadium.

The cash must be returned to the Wizard's office one month before the game. That means that the money must be in to the church office by June 20th! Please order your tickets and bring in your money by then.

There are 50 reserved seats available at last report. The reduced rate is only $5.00 per ticket. This will also give you a chance to purchase other tickets at HALF of that price or at $2.50 per seat for a Thursday evening game in August. How about that?

Remember, First Christian's Lori Crouter will sing, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" (live and in color) prior to the seventh inning stretch!

See you at the game on July 20, a Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

A SUMMER ADULT S.S. CLASS BEGINS JUNE 8

The Gospel Seekers Class welcomes all visitors to a three month study of the book of Revelation. We will view the book as one of splendid worship, and of hope for the future — not as a strange book of horrors.

We will be using the Kerygma program, but you need not buy a study book unless you want to.

Bring your Bible. We meet in the Board Room at 9:30 a.m. beginning June 8.

MISSING ITEMS FROM CHURCH ARE NEEDED!!

Do you know the whereabouts of the following items?

2 VCR'S
EXTENSION CORDS
TOWELS FROM KITCHEN

Please look around your home to see if there is something that you may have that needs to be returned to the church.

Joys & Concerns

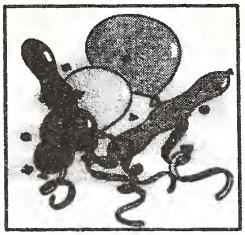
Glenn D. Miller has gone home from St. Joseph Medical Center as well as **George Cole.**

Congratulations to **David L. Hamm** as he graduated from Harvey Mudd College last Sunday with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science.

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS

The D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) group will be going to the Window Garden on **Tuesday, June 10, 1997 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)** at 12:00 noon for lunch.

After lunch, we will be going to the Historical Museum.



ATTENTION CHOIR AND CARILLON MEMBERS..... NOTE CHANGE!

It has been a glorious year of music-making at First Christian and I want to thank you all for the hard work and dedication that is the hallmark of all of you involved in the music ministry.

And now — it is time to party! We'll be having our annual music ministry party on the **21st of June** at 1:00 p.m. at the Prechtl's house (see directions below).

Bring a covered dish and a white elephant present, and we will have a great time in fellowship together.

Thank you again and let's all be there!

Your brother in Christ,
Brian Prechtl

DIRECTIONS: Take Aboite Center Road west from Jefferson. After passing over I-69 you will come to a light. Proceed past light 7/10 of a mile and turn right into Aboite Meadows. We are the first house on left (go around median and come back). Address: 4118 Turf Lane. Phone: 432-2076.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... that 800 of our Miles for Mission were spent within the church, and 400 were beyond the church?

Did you know..... that Jewel Byrket has been the "chief" person in charge of preparing the mailing of our weekly newsletter, The Tidings, for 13 years? Bill and Jo Franklin have also helped weekly for 10 years! Many thanks to all of the volunteers who help in this mailing every week: Jessie Fern Woodward, Ruth Yentes, Mark Snyder, and Jackie Keller.

Did you know..... that Linda Deck baked and decorated the birthday cakes for Jerry Zehr? They were beautiful and delicious!

Did you know..... that Jim Davis sand the Alma Mater songs for the IUPUI Commencement services last weekend?

Did you know..... that Janet Weicker is also back at church?

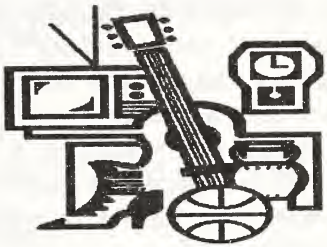
Did you know..... that we will not have a newsletter next week because of the Memorial Day Holiday?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

The Associated Churches Food Bank Steering Committee would like to thank First Christian Church for sharing the gifts of Bill Franklin, Ed Allen, Anne and Katie Moll, Leo and Donna Heimann and Megan McEvoy. They sorted and boxed a semi-trailer of food in a single afternoon. Thanks to the hard work of the letter carriers and numerous other organizations around Allen County we raised over 200,000 pounds of food for our 26 food banks.

Youth groups and school groups will be working over the next month at the main warehouse to prepare the food for delivery to the food banks. If you would like to help at the main warehouse call the Associated Churches office at 422-3528.

JUNE 14
RUMMAGE SALE AT F.C.C.
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.



It's time to bring your garage sale best to the church for our annual Rummage Sale.

We also need workers to help sort, price and sell on that day and during the week before.

Our organizer this year is Judy Church, so please tell her or Diane Zehr if you are able to help.

You can put items for the sale in fellowship hall on the stage.

Due to the Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 26 the church office will be closed, therefore there will not be a newsletter that week.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(5-4)	221	$3,523.88	$3,401.66
Year-to-date	187	$66,953.72	$65,215.39

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

We are in process of gathering church history. We believe this is not just a one person responsibility. We do not anticipate selecting a room for this info. We need to approach this with the thought in mind of having our history placed throughout the church building so that we have a constant reminder of the foresight our precesses provided for us. It is sometimes necessary to "look-back" on history to renew our goals to the future.

We would like to have six to eight people that will be able to denote time to this program. Please contact the office.

George Bruckman

NEW DISCOVERY

We have discovered a long time member of our church is living at the Lutheran Home on S. Anthony. This discovery came about because of Marvel Brickley's residence there. Marvel informed us of this person, however, we were unable to verify her membership with the church. We started tracing from 1924 to present year without success. However, we learned that she just celebrated her 100th birthday on April 23, 1997, so we went back into the archives and found she, **Maude Goodrich**, joined our congregation in 1917.

Maude is very alert and loves to have visitors. We are placing her on our communion list and homebound visitation.

ATTENTION GOLFERS

We need you to help make the 4th Annual One Church-One Offender Golf Outing a success. Join us on Thursday, June 26 for fun, fellowship and golf. You can form your own 4 person team or we will form a team for you. If you would like to help a great organization by playing or pledging, call George Davis, Jim Bushey, Ron Wise, Charlie Hatten or the church office. Pledges are $25.00 for individuals of $100.00 for businesses. The cost to play is $40.00 per player.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MAY 25
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 p.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, MAY 26
OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, MAY 27
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group

THURSDAY, MAY 29
3:45 p.m. Project READS

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. S.S. Graduation
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

****

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 - 9:30 A.M.
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Marvel Brickley, Room 213
Maude Goodrich, Room 107
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Walter Bowen, 1924 Senior Drive 46805
Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807

SERVING MAY 25

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Anne Moll & Judy Church
10:45 a.m. Eileen Klepfer & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Schuricht, M. Mullen, J. Ott
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, K. Bushey, C. Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, B. Smith, B. Widmer

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

J. Kelly - L. Heimann
D. Mey - E. Rieke
K. Ohneck - R. Wise
K. Blocher - E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

A. Cook, J. McGrew, J. Mounsey

EVANGELISM CALLERS

E. Gorman & M. Crouse

SERVING JUNE 1

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. John Ohneck & Kathy Blocher
10:45 a.m. Ken Taylor & Sam Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, M. Bier, G. Brown, J. Young
10:45 a.m. L. Brey, S. Brickley, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, J. Mounsey, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION

D. Keebortz, B. Smith, B. Widmer

EVANGELISM CALLERS

Ralph & Judy Church

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS MAY 28-JUNE 10

Gene Klepfer(28), Pat Mullen(28), Jenny Zumwalt(28), Molly Baughman(29), Carolyn Austin(29), Wayne Penny(31), Diane Howard(31), Mike McFarland(1), David Rinker(5), Ralph Church(6), Spiro Olympidis(6), Elissabeth Olson(8), Lillian Crain(9), Don Oden(9), Jane Harts(9), Virginia Englehart(9), Bill Howard(10)

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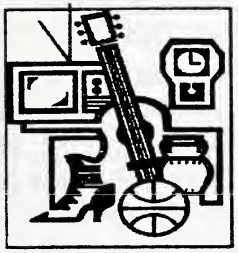
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

June 11, 1997 Volume 54, No. 20

RUMMAGE and BAKE SALE
JUNE 14, 9:00am-2:00pm



We are planning for the fellowship hall to be filled with "treasures" for all and lots of homemade good things to eat on Saturday, June 14.

Even if you don't want to "rummage" you can still find something in the bake sale that will tempt your tastebuds.

Judy Church is this years ' organizer and she would love to hear from you in the following ways:

1) Bring your donations to the stage in the fellowship hall.

2) Bring some homemade baked goods on that Saturday (and let her know they are coming).

3) Call her to help sort and price during the week next week.

4) Call her if you can help the day of the sale.

Proceeds this year will be given to the Walk to Bethlehem fund and C.W.F.

JOIN the F.B.I. (FABULOUS BIBLE INVESTIGATORS)

Enclosed in this newsletter is a green brochure that gives you all the scoop about VBS this year.

All we need is YOU, YOUR CHILDREN, OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, AND OUR NEIGHBORS to make the week a lot of fun and faith-filled.

Please give this brochure to someone you would like to invite to participate.

Our adult class this year will be taught by Rev. George Mather, a noted Fort Wayne author and historian and retired Presbyterian minister.

Call the church office to let us know that you and others WILL BE ATTENDING.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3259

From Here to Zehr

It is with deep regret that we have given our letter of resignation to the board of Trustees. Our last Sunday in worship will be August 17. We will be moving to Florence Kentucky (eight miles south of Cincinnati) where Diane and I will be Co-pastors of Florence Christian Church. This has been a difficult decision for us to make because of the friendships we have made with many of you. It was especially hard to tell the youth of our departure because of all the wild times we have had together over the past six years.

One thing you could say about the last six years, they weren't dull! From having the Walk to Bethlehem, Vacation Bible School, the renovation of the building, the worship experiences with music and drama, etc., it has been a great time for us.

Marge (Diane's mother) will move with us, but Lori is going to stay in Fort Wayne. We are putting our house up for sale, so if you know anyone who wants an English Tudor with and apartment in the back, let us know.

We look forward to sharing the next two months together as we prepare for our departure. Thank-you for all you have given to Diane and me over the last six years, we have truly been blessed.

Blessings,
Jerry

P.S. We want to thank Steve Vachon for his work over the last six months as our student minister. He will be completing his time in this position as of June 15 .

Also, Dianne Dunn is our new secretary. Her office hours will be 8:00-4:30. We are glad to have another Dianne on staff with us. Please make her feel welcome.

DEADLINE FOR WIZARDS TICKETS ! !

The deadline for ordering Fort Wayne Wizards baseball tickets is fast approaching. By **Friday, June 20th** the minimum of 50 tickets must be paid for and the money in to the Wizards office !

Please get your money in to the church office by then, so it can be relayed to the baseball office.

The game is on Sunday afternoon, July 20th at two o'clock with Lori Crouter of First Christian Church, singing, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at the stretch half of the seventh inning ! Our church will also be mentioned during the play-by-play of the game on the radio — and on the scoreboard at the park. Should be quite a day at the ballpark for First Christian Church. Get your money in now — and see you at the Municipal stadium on July 20th !

Thanks to Those Who Passed On the Faith This Year!

As school years end, we are mindful of those who are graduating and those who are growing every year. It also reminds us that this is possible because teachers and mentors and adult friends take the time to care for new generations of the children of God

We at First Christian want to recognize those folks who have shepherded, taught, loved, and cared for our youngest, our children, and our teens.

Last Sunday plaques were presented to Lori Vandergriff, Laura McFarland, Anne Moll, Donna McEvoy-Heimann and Diane Bohlen for their three year commitment of taking our children through a "Journey of the Bible". Kris Ohneck received a plaque for her work with our youth last year.

We also recognized four leaders of our Children and Worship time. these include Teresa Hatten, Caren Wise, Eunice Conrad, and Julia Arnold.

Our teachers of the adult SS classes include, Glenn Miller, Jack Weicker, Bill Franklin, Roger Moll, and Eunice Conrad.

We know and appreciate their consistent and excellent work with the adults of our church.

We are also grateful to Eunice Conrad for preparing our 3-5th graders for worship.

Lori Crouter, Larry Brey, Roger and Anne Moll, Donna McEvoy-Heiman, Steve and Amy Vachon have been friends and mentors to our teenagers this year and we are grateful to them.

Last spring our mentors included the coordinator Brenda Kelly and mentors Julia Arnold, Larry Brey, Eunice Conrad, Eve Gorman, Brenda Kelly and Rebecca Krull, Richard Mey ,Charles and Jean McGrew, Kris Ohneck, Sharon Pauley, Estel and Lori Vandergriff. Your have given of yourself and your faith and we are grateful. God is too.

Joys & Concerns

Our sympathy and prayers goes to the families of **Walter Bowen** who died suddenly on June 5, 1997 and **Marvel Brickley** who died June 8, 1997.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 15- FATHER'S DAY
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 p.m. Second Worship Service

TUESDAY, JUNE 17
7:00 p.m. W.O.E. Committee meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
1:00 p.m. Choir Party

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
9:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service

THANKS!!

Dear Friends and Members of First Christian Church,

I wish to thank the many thoughtful people who sent cards and notes, congratulations and best wishes, and also for the generous money donation from everyone.

I would especially like to thank a number of people who volunteered in the church office on a weekly basis: Mary Wilhelm, Sue Brickley, Jessie Fern Woodward, Jackie Keller, Mark Snyder, Ruth Yentes, and also to Jewel Byrket (otherwise know as the chief according to Mark Snyder). The church could not run as smoothly and efficiently without the dedication you have all shown over the years.

I would also like the thank Jerry and Diane for presenting me with the recognition on Sunday, June 1. It was a very special time for me. Thank you so much! You will all remain a very special part of my life.

Love,
Diane Johnson

DON'T FORGET THE **CHOIR PARTY** ON **JUNE 21st**

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know.....that on June 1 Glenn and Lola Miller will celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary?

Did you know.....that the picture of Jesus in the parlor is in memory of Jack Brickley.

Did you know.....that Alec Jordan Pena was born on May 2, 1997 at 8:29pm? Alberto and Kristin Pena are the happy parents.

Did you know....that Nicholas Whitworth was presented with the Kiwanis Award for outstanding achievement in his 2nd grade class at Holland Elementary?

Did you know....Don Parlette is at Vee's for birthday celebrations? (Vee-June 15, Don-June 19)

There will be a Congregational meeting on June 22 at 9:30 to approve the slate of officers for the 1997-1998 year.

We will install the new officers and ordain our new Elders in worship on June 29.

GOLF OUTING

We need you to help make the 4th Annual One Church-One Offender Golf Outing a success. Join us on **Thursday, June 26** for fun, fellowship and golf. You can form your own 4 person team or we will form a team for you. If you would like to help a great organization by playing or pledging, call George Davis, Jim Bushey, Ron Wise, Charlie Hatten or the church office. Pledges are $25.00 for individuals or $100.00 for businesses. The cost to play is $40.00 per player.

New Face in the Office

Hi! I'm your new church secretary, Dianne Dunn. Let me tell you a little about myself. This August my husband Steve and I will celebrate 25 years of marriage and we have been in the ministry in one form or another at least that long. Almost 14 years ago we answered the call to serve the Anthony Wayne Church of God on the corner of Getz and S. Bend and have been very happy here.

Although our nest is beginning to empty it has been very blessed with our four children. Christi, our oldest, graduated last spring from Hanover College with honors in English. She is currently living in Indianapolis where she works as a project manager for Howard W. Sams Publishing. Michael, our bi-centennial child, is one of the managers at Steak & Shake. He's learning about the real world before he goes to college. Next is our son Chris. Chris has just finished his freshman year at the University of Findlay where he is studying all he can about computers. He has already worked as a programmer and is currently working on a project for Dow Chemical in Findlay, Oh. Last, but not least, is our caboose Katie. Katie has graduated from Woodside Middle School and will begin at Homestead High School in the fall. Her long term goal is to work with and teach the handicapped children but right now she is using her charm on the infants and little children at church who seem to settle down for only her.

I have worked as teacher's aide, as a shelver at the downtown library and as an executive assistant at a software company - working mainly with the training department.

I love to read, play computer card games, golf, and sail.

SERVING JUNE 15

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Ohneck & E. Conrad
10:45 a.m. J. Kelly & B. Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. D. Schuricht, M. Mullen, J. Ott, E./K. Place
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, C.Falbe, J. Franklin, E. Gorman, J. McGrew, J. Mounsey, E. Vandergriff, L. Vandergriff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

J. Ott, S. Rudy, R. Wise

EVANGELISM CALLERS

K. Taylor & B. Smith

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JUNE 11-JUNE 24

Bev Hendricks(12), Laura Tomes(13), Valetta Parlette(15), Mary King(16), Brandon Falbe(16), Andy Cook (17), Fern Kenline(18), Bernice Montgomery(18), Gene Auer(18), Gary Hall (18), Eve Gorman (18), Don Parlette (19), Diana Moore(19), Joan Penny (20), Orie McDougle (21), Jim Bond (21), Shawn Cobb(21), Linda Merrick(22), Jack Wicker(23), Kurt Schryver(23), Jack Lindsay(24).

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

We are in process of gathering church history. We believe this is not just a one person responsibility. We do not anticipate selecting a room for this info; we need to approach this with the thought in mind of having our history placed throughout the church building so that we have a constant reminder of the foresight our precesses provided for us. It is sometimes necessary to "look-back" on history to renew our goals to the future.

We would like to have six to eight people that will be able to denote time to this program. Please contact the office.

George Bruckman

Published weekly by
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4800 S. Calhoun St.
Ft. Wayne, IN
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MR & MRS RALPH CHURCH
5126 WERLING DRIVE
FT WAYNE IN 46806

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

June 18, 1997 Volume 54, No. 21

JOIN THE FABULOUS BIBLE INVESTIGATORS !

"One generation will commend your works to another" Psalm 145:4

Did you know: the Bible was first written on papyrus paper made of bullrush reeds and parchment made of goat or sheepskin.

Before the Bible was translated and printed in English by John Wycliffe, the cost of a Bible was a year's salary for a priest.

This is the week that we'll be discovering these things and more.

Our children will learn how the Bible began as stories told from one generation to another. Then they were written down. Children will investigate the Hebrew and Greek languages and a scribe (Professor Arlan Birkey from Taylor University) will visit to write their names in each language on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. They will have a chance to act on God's Word in mission providing lunches (they will pack) for the hungry, letters (they will write) to the imprisoned, gifts (they will make) for the sick and shut-in and health kits (they will assemble) for Church World Service to distribute to disaster victims.

They will be writing on clay tablets, making paper, printing with stamps and learning how the Bible was passed down so we can have it today.

Adults will also have their opportunity to grow with Dr. George Mather teaching a class in the parlor.

It is a truly inspirational week for God's children OF ALL AGES. **Come - bring family, neighbors and friends.**

See you Monday night!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

On May 18 we completed our **50 Day Adventure** with the theme "**The Church I Have Always Longed For**". At that time Diane and I had not decided to move to Florence, Kentucky, but I knew even if we did leave, this study would be important for the church to complete.

This is an important time in the life of this congregation. The need for creating a ministry plan and setting goals for the future is essential as you prepare to look for new ministers. What direction do we want to go? Do we want to stay the course we have begun? Do we want to go a different direction? These will be the decisions you as a congregation will need to join together on.

Following is a list of "good things" people shared in the forum on May 18 at 9:30.

1. Closer attention to neighborhood
2. Striving to be positive
3. Develop a multi-racial expression of unity
4. Develop a leadership program for mentoring possible leaders for the future
5. Try to have activities that bring people from both worship services together to build a sense of community
6. Develop a program to discern the gifts of church members to serve our Lord.
7. Learn to listen to one another
8. Develop stronger youth program and help them be more involved with other youth groups in the area.

The seven small groups then shared their ideas for the church to focus on through the next couple of years. These are not a definitive list for the church but only those views expressed by those who were there.

Blessings,
Jerry

Catch the Excitement!
Witness the Jo
Shape the Vision!

There will be a **Congreg tional meeting on June 22** at 9:30 to approve the slate officers for the 1997-1998 year

We will install the new officers and ordain our new Elders in worship on June 29.

THANK YOU !

Our thoughts are with all our church family. Thank you for your prayers, cards, your faith nd caring.

Sue, Judy & Jim

Thank you for the food, prayers and all the help you gave us when fell down the church stairs. I'm in herapy and doing better.

Dawn Pierce
Marc Jones

A HUGE THANK YOU and well done to everyone who contributed to and helped with the Rummage nd Bake Sale last Saturday. We net-ed over $900! What a success! And ve had a good time too. It was well vorth all the hard work.

To: D.M.A.

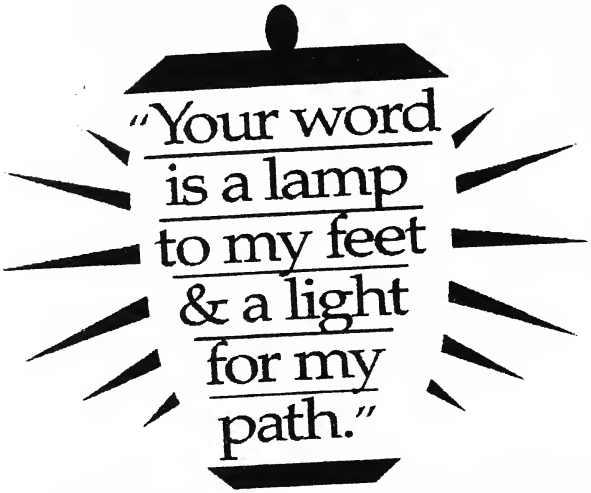
I wish to thank the D.M.A. for the lovely plant and for the en-oyable lunch last Tuesday at Hall's I was quite surprised to be your "honored" guest. Thanks again to all of you. It was good seeing everyone!

FLASH

The youth group is painting the youth room. We are asking for donations of paint items. Here are some items we need:

Edgers
Sponges
Masking tape
A variety of paint brushes
Leftover colorful Paint
Paint pans
Drop cloths
Old rags
Rollers

If you have any of these items or other ideas, let us know. We need to know as soon as possible. You can call the church office or Katie Moll at 482-7519. If you would like your item(s) back, please tell us.



Psalm 119:105

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 p.m. Second Worship Service

MONDAY, JUNE 23- FRIDAY, JUNE 20
6:30 p.m. Fabulous Bible Investigators

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that we made $900.0
at our rummage sale

***Did you know*.....**that Rev. Jerry Zehr
mother and father were in worship wit
us during the first service last week

***Did you know*.....**that a search comm
tee will be set up by the lay leadersh
committee and the board moderator

***Did you know*.....**that the youth are goi
to renovate their room

***Did you know*.....** that Bill and Jo Frank
will be our delegates to General Assem
in Denver, Colorado the end of July

(If you have any tidbits for
new article entitled, **"Did You Kn**
call the church office by Monday
noon).

GOLF OUTING

We need you to help make the 4th Annual One Church-One Offender Golf Outing a success. Join us on **Thursday, June 26** for fun, fellowship and golf. You can form your own 4 person team or we will form a team for you. If you would like to help a great organization by playing or pledging, call George Davis, Jim Bushey, Ron Wise, Charlie Hatten or the church office. Pledges are $25.00 for individuals or $100.00 for businesses. The cost to play is $40.00 per player.

MISSION SPEAKER HERE JUNE 22

Here's your chance to learn more about the mission work we help fund through outreach giving (Basic Mission Finance). Indiana's global mission partners are Audy and Ellen Collins in Nepal. Last year, a dozen folks from Indiana made the trek to Nepal to see what in our world our church was doing there. Susan McNeeley, from Southport Christian Church in Indianapolis, was one of those trekkers.

She will be here Sunday to spend the Sunday School hour with our children. She has slides and will bring some food which is typical food for a meal (cooked lentils) that our children can taste.

During worship she will make a short presenta tion to let us know some things about what God is doing through the Collins' work in Nepal.

SERVING JUNE 22

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Ohneck & A. Moll
10:45 a.m. E. Klepfer & C. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, Marti Bier, Gini Brown Andy Cook
10:45 a.m. Sue Brey, Larry Brey, Sue Brickley, Karen Bushey, Laura McFarland, Kris Scott, Ron Wise, Evelyn Yoeman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

J. Ott, S. Rudy, R. Wise

HOME COMMUNION

R. Mey, J. Kelly, K. Taylor, B. bruckman, T. Knuckles, J. Young, C. Falbe, J. Franklin

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JUNE 18-JULY 2

Fern Kenline(18), Bernice Montgomery(18), Gene Auer(18), Gary Hall(18), Eve Gorman (18), Don Parlette (19), Diana Moore(19), Joan Penny (20), Orie McDougle(21), Jim Bond (21), Shawn Cobb(21), Linda Merrick(22), Jack Wicker(23), Kurt Schryver(23), Jack Lindsay(24), Beth Doehrman(25), Lois Buchanan(27), Caren Wise(28), Dwain Graham(28), Mildred Linn(29), Mildred I. Hartman(29), Marilyn Butler(1), Schellie Englehart(1), Steve Kreischer (2)

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

June 25, 1997 Volume 54, No. 22

INSTALLATION OFFICERS, ELDERS & DEACONS, CHAIRPEOPLE THIS SUNDAY

We would like all of our officers and chairpeople for the 1997-1998 term to be in worship this Sunday. We would like to have a moment of Confirmation and The insert lists the leaders of our church for 1997-1998. The insert lists the leaders of our church for 1997-1998. We are blessed to have such a great group of leaders.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS

At the end of the first service and the beginning of the second service we will ordain six new people into the Eldership of our church. We would like all Elders to be present for the "Laying on of Hands" ceremony.

BOARD MEETING

There will be a called Board Meeting July 21, 1997 at 7P.M. for the purpose of meeting with Jim Keown from the Indiana Regional office to review the process of calling a new pastor. This meeting should last about one hour and will include the Search Committee.

The search committee will meet immediately after the Board Meeting with Jim Keown for further information on selecting an interim minister for the church. Roger Moll

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3259

From Here to Zehr

Warrant of Arrest

sex: male
height: 5' 11"
Caucasian
hair: black with grey
eyes: brown

Jerry Eugene Zehr
aka The Z-Man
4802 Calumet Avenue
Fort Wayne, Indiana

WANTED
For
Abandonment
of First Christian Church
Youth Group

For
Indecent Exposure
in
the Play South Pacific in 1973

Known to Impersonate:

Bat Man
Elvis
Other Biblical Characters

Court System
LARGER CHRISTIAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bench warrant by order of Judge Roger Moll *Roger Moll*

Last Sunday I had the biggest surprise, fifteen of our youth came into my house and arrested me! Somehow they got my High School yearbook picture and a "Judge" to sign the warrant. It was one of the highlights of my ministry?

They found a picture of me playing Luther Billis in South Pacific when he does the hula dance, that was the indecent exposure.

I want the youth to know how much I love them and will miss them. I feel honored to have been arrested by such a good group of the "God Squad"

Blessings

Jerry

P.S. Kris Scott took me to the hoop in a close game —He won!! "You are worthy" Kris.

DON'T SHOOT THE HORSE

he call to a truly biblical vision of stewardship and giving in and of the church, was very pointedly iven by our visitor Susan McNeeley of outhport Christian Church last Sunay. Susan dialogued with us concerng the disciple mission in Nepal operted by our mission partners Audy and llen Collins. She informed us that a aw exists preventing Christian evangesm n that country however the Disciple nission is allowed to operate on the bais of aiding by food, medical or other haritable means direct to needy famies. The mission feels that they are a art of the Indiana family because of the enerosity the churches of Indiana have nade to aid them. This is a true experince in the Joy of Giving.

Perhaps we can change our vision of tewardship and become more aware f a personal fulfillment by believing our resence is needed to support the ospel of **Jesus!**

D.M.A. GOING TO CAMP

The D.M.A. (Don't Mention Age) will be visiting the Red Cedar Easter Seal Camp on this coming Tuesday. July 1st. This is a special camp for those children suffering from Lung Problems. Lunch will be served at Noon and will cost $5.00 per person. You may meet everyone there (Maps are available) or you may meet at the church at 11:00-11:15 to carpool with others. **Come see the fun activities that are available to these kids!**

FAMILY CAMPING

ELDERS DON'T FORGET!

Elders will be meeting this coming **Tuesday July 1** at 7:00 p.m.

Our children
Alicia Dyan Hess and James Ora Davis
will be united in Christ
on Saturday, the second of August
Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven
at four-thirty in the afternoon
at First Christian Church
4800 South Calhoun
Fort Wayne, Indiana
You are invited to join us in worship,
witness their vows, and celebrate their union
at a reception following the ceremony
at the Allen Co. Fairground,
Home Loan Bank Building
If you are unable to attend,
we ask your presence in thought and in prayer.
Richard and Nancy Hess
George and Sara Davis
Alicia and Jim

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Church School
10:45 p.m. Second Worship Service
TUESDAY, JULY 1
12:00 Noon D.M.A. trip
7:00 p.m. ELDERS MEETING

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that Kris Ohneck was re-elected to the position of President of the Indiana Commission for Women for another two years at Women's Retreat,
DePauw University, June 14-15, 1997. We're proud of you Kris!

***Did you know*.....**that we have 30 people signed up for the Wizards game, July 20. If you want to join them get your money into the office now.

Did you know*.....*that Don Parlette was in town visiting V and celebrating their birthdays

***Did you know*.....**that Katie Moll and Kevin McEvoy were elected by the youth to be representatives on the Board of Trustees

***Did you know*.....** that D.J. Render was in worship this week from New Mexico

***Did you. know*.....** that Margaret and Brian Prechtl are leaving Saturday for two months in Wyoming

***Did you know*.....**that Glenn and Wilma Miller will be celebrating **50 years** of marriage this Saturday?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Maude Goodrich, Room 107
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

SERVING JUNE 29

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. R. Church, J. Church
10:45 a.m. G. Klepfer, S. Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles, J. Young
10:45 a.m. D. Bohlen, C. Falbe, D. Heimann, L. Heimann, J. Mounsey, E. Reicke, B. Smith, L. Vandergriff

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Elinor/Ken Place, Diane Bohlen, George Cole

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JUNE 25-JULY 9

Beth Doehrman(25), Lois Buchanan(27), Caren Wise(28), Dwain Graham(28), Mildred Linn(29), Mildred I. Hartman(29), Marilyn Butler(1), Schellie Englehart(1), Steve Kreischer (2), Shirley Dibble(3), Diane Bohlen(3), Miles Zimmerman, Jr.(4), Michael Piatt(5), John Clevenger (7), Lola Miller (8), George Ludwig(8), David Kreischer(9), David Griggs(9)

Summer's finally here

Try to stay cool

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

JULY 2, 1997 Volume 54, No. 23

CLUES FROM A WEEK WITH FABULOUS BIBLE INVESTIGATORS

INVESTIGATION ROOM REVEALS

Eunice Conrad and 8-10 of our youth introduced How we got our Bible passing stories generation to generation through our families. The Old Testament books and New Testament gospels and letters were on the plate for investigation Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday we learned how John Wycliffe translated and printed the Bible so we could read God's word for ourselves.

LABORATORY EXPLORATION

We wrote on clay tablets and even learned some Hebrew letters. As Proffessor Birkey, our scribe, wrote our names, so did we. We made scrolls and learned some Greek letters like the letters Paul wrote to the churches of New Testament times. We made our own paper and stamped messages on that paper much like what John Wycliffe was able to do with a printing press in England in the fourteenth century. Thanks to Laura McFarland and Laura Whitworth for leading all of this.

BREAKTIME WAS FUN

Each night we played games and had great treats from our parking lot vendor like snocones, hot dogs and pop, popcorn and juice, and on Thursday night, cotton candy.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Zehr

We had a great time at the choir party last Saturday. Following is a poem Brian Prechtl wrote about the "Zehrs".

Ode to the Zehr's

Dear Diane and Jerry, we're very sad to say
The two of you will leave us soon, to Kentucky you'll away
Before you go, however, there are some things that come to mind
To send you off without some thoughtful words would be unkind.
We know your tenure here has been a potpourri of schemes
You've given us the chance to know our wants, desires, and dreams.
We've found we like to dress up, like kids in mama's clothes,
Walk to Bethlehem turned out to be our show of shows
Children's projects seem to be the gift we always bring
VBS, Sunday School, Halloween and that Easter Bunny thing.
But it wasn't just the dress-up that made it feel so right
It's not that we are just hams and love the limelight
or even that we love to laugh, to cry, or to pretend
It's the way a child is open to knowing Jesus as a friend.
Perhaps you made us realize that this is the greatest goal
to love God with a child's heart and a fully forgiven soul
We know that this is easier for some of us than others
Jerry was a model as the boy who needs a mother
He liked to dress in tights although we wished we hadn't seen
His thighs his but and the boys down there - it verged on the obscene
He likes to spice his sermons up and catch us all off guard
But I think it would be safe to say with orgasm he went to far.
Jerry is very dramatic always looking for that perfect prop
but torching the robe on Christmas eve was way over the top.
While Jerry is just a kid at heart, of that he would confess
Diane is wearing the mother's hat and cleaning up his mess.

Ode to the Zehr's (continued)

She's guided with a quiet hand so much around these parts
Her brain's so full of thoughts and plans she can't find where to start.
But somehow she manages to corral the horses and get them to saddle up
And before you know it you're on the trail or even leading the round-up
We thank you God, for women like her who have taught us to see you anew.
She calls you Father and Mother and taught us both halves become whole in you.
But Diane also is human and there are things we'll not forget
Like the way that her nostrils flare, when her way she does not get.
And one piece of advice we might send to the folks in Kentucky from Di Zehr's past.
Don't get in her way or cross her path when she's getting near the end of her fast.
These little memories we'll always hold dear, her esteem we'll always hold high
Perhaps because every time that she'd preach she'd manage to get us to cry.
So as you depart we'll wave a good-bye and manage to smile and to laugh
We'll miss you both, but know that God has chosen us all our own path.
You've both have given us funny things to remember you by, yes it's true,
But behind the laughter we'll always recall the love that we have for you.

Thanks to Brian and the choir for your support and beautiful music over the past six years. We have loved your music and the inspiration that it has brought to the church and our lives. This church is blessed to have someone as talented and creative as Brian Prechtle as our music director.

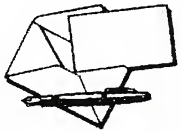
Blessings,

Jerry

WHERE DID GOD'S WORD TAKE US?

To the Rapid Response Room led by Pat Mullen where our children responded in mission to the Word of God they were learning.

MON: They made 50 gifts and letters for our sick and shut-in.



TUES: Charlie Hatten told them about the prisoners he knows and they wrote letters of love to the imprisoned.

WED: We assembled 100 health kits for Church World Service to distribute to disaster victims.

THURS: We packed 60 picnic lunchs for the women and children of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.

We learned to LIVE what we hear from God's Word.

ADULTS ENJOY REV. GEORGE MATHER

Just when we thought he told us all he knew, out Rev. Mather would come with some other interesting thought or inforation. We were delighted to learn from him and made tapes for others who would like to hear what he had to say.

PRE-SCHOOLERS' DISCOVERIES

—That God made the heavens . We looked at st and heard the story of Abraham and Sarah, how their descendants would be as many as the stars.
—That God made the earth and all of the deligh of it like bugs and flowers and trees.
—That God gives us sight and sound and bodies make music, dance and play.
—All of us are children of God

DETECTIVE BOB AWARDS DIPLOMAS

Each night Detective Bob helped us uncover clue about what the evening would be about. He teste us "rookies"every day and on Thursday night awarded diplomas to all who attended.

It takes over fifty adults to mak event like this happen. Thanks all who helped.

George Mather
Sister Martha
Professor Birdey
Kenneth Fensler
Jerry & Diane Zehr
Laura & Wayne Whitworth
Laura & Mike McFarland
Pat Mullen
George Bruckman

THANKS (continued)

Jo & Bill Franklin
Kris Ohneck
Roger & Anne Moll
Bob & Marty Bier
Margaret & Brian Prechtl
Dawn Pierce
Teresa & Charlie Hatten
Becca Widmer
Rick & Robin Evans
Dennis & Nikki Cook
Linda Deck
Michelle Hutson
Jenny & Greg Baitz
Eunice Conrad
Dianne Dunn
Michael Omspaugh
Donna McEvoy
Lori Crouter
Lori & Estel Vandegriff
Brenda Proegler
Ralph & Judy Church
Katie Moll
Chris Olson
Elizabeth Olson
Megan McEvoy
Christi & Tammy Deck
Lindsay Bailey
Dawn & Heather Holmes
Kris Scott

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that the Tidings will be published every other week during July and August?

***Did you know*.....**that we have 32 people signed up for the Wizards game, July 20?

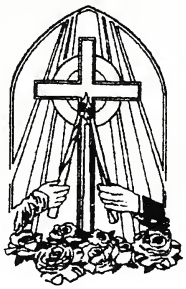
***Did you know*.....**that our own Charlie Hatten, Jim Bushy, and Ron Wise helped raise over $4000.00 for the One Church, One Offender program?

***Did you know*.....**that the choir met for their summer choir party and had a white elephant gift exchange? Ask Lori Crouder about her elephant ash tray!

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

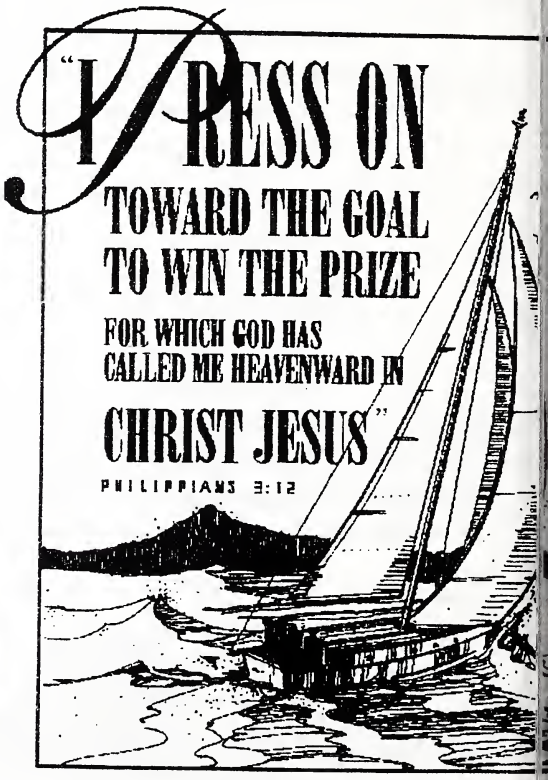
CHURCH CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 4
Office Closed
SUNDAY, JULY 6
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 p.m. Second Worship Service
TUESDAY, JULY 8
7:30 p.m. Board Meeting



Two flames unite . . .
and blend into one.
You are invited to share our joy
as we are united as one in marriage
Ms. Diana Lynn Burridge
and
Mr. Kenneth Lee Taylor
on Saturday, the second of August
Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven
at one o'clock in the afternoon
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
1819 Reservation Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Cake Reception to follow
until 5 p.m.



Joys & Concerns

Our sympathy and prayers go to the family and friends of Maude Goodrich who passed away last Thursday. Maude was one of our shut-ins at the Lutheran Home.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND: While getting ready for the Rummage Sale, a red nylon billfold (Sporties) was discovered in the Lost and Found basket in the Fellowship Hall. There are family photographs inside. Some of the children's names are Eric and Autumn. Also there is an old photograph of a house and the inscription on the back that says "My home in Decatur, Michigan 1923-1926". If anyone has a clue to who owns this billfold, please contact the church office.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame July 20th!

The final number for the First Christian Members attending the Fort Wayne Wizards baseball game on July 20th will be 32! Didn't quite reach our goal of 50, but the Wizards forgave us. The money has been turned in to the Wizards office, and the tickets will be coming to the church office in the near future. Watch the Tidings and the Sunday bulletin for that announcement. The first pitch is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on July 20th — two weeks from this Sunday. Lori Crouter will sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" at the stretch half of the seventh inning.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
This week(6-29)	179	$3,523.88	$2,117.00
Year-to-date	182	$85,851.95	$84,445.07

SERVING JULY 3

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. A. Moll, B. Bier
10:45 a.m. J. Mey, C. Hatten

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m G. Baitz, J. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G. Cole, C. Deck, R. Wise.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Tim Knuckles, Sue Brey, Larry Brey

HOME COMMUNION

J. McGrew & M. Mullen, B. Franklin & J. Ott, S. Hayes & B Proegler, D. Heimann & M. Deck

JULY FORTH

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS JULY 3-JULY 16

Shirley Dibble(3), Diane Bohlen(3), Miles Zimmerman, Jr.(4), Michael Piatt(5), John Clevenger (7), Lola Miller (8), George Ludwig(8), David Kreischer(9), David Griggs(9), Alice Nulf(10), Marge Thomas(11), Judy Markley(12)

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MR & MRS RALPH CHURCH
5126 WERLING DRIVE
FT WAYNE IN 46806

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ) Tidings

JULY 16, 1997 Volume 54, No. 24

SEARCH COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The official Board of First Christian Church has approved these eight individuals to serve on the pulpit committee to select the new Pastor for the church: Eunice Conrad, Bill Franklin, Eve Gorman, Dick Mey, Katie Moll, Rick Evans, Marlene Crouse and Jack Wiecker. (There will be a ninth added at a later date.)

The first task of the committee will be to select an interim minister who will provide ministerial leadership while the search committee is working on finding a permanent minister. The process will take a number of months as there is a lot of background information the committee will need to obtain.

There will be a time for input from the congregation as to the qualities that everyone wants in the minister we select. What are the goals and direction we want him/her to help us reach? This is an exciting time for our congregation and we know God will be with us through the process.

Pray for your church and leaders through these upcoming months.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

The Zehrs and Franklins will be heading to General Assembly soon. Rev.s Jerry and Diane will be out of the office from July 20-30, as they drive to Denver, Colorado for the General Assembly. If there is a personal need you may call Rev. George Bruckman at the office or Eunice Conrad, Chair of the Elders. Pat Mullen will be in the pulpit July 20 & 27. Diane & Jerry will be back in the pulpit August 3, with their last Sunday being August 17.

Bill & Jo Franklin will be traveling to Denver as our voting delegates to General Assembly. Keep the Zehrs and Franklins in your prayers as they travel out west.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-5329

From Here to Zehr

We sold the House! It was only two weeks when a nice couple, Shannon and Barry Carr, made an offer on the house. I think it was Diane's flower gardens that cemented the deal. Lori has found an apartment here in Fort Wayne, and so she is getting ready to move also. The search committee has been selected and they are beginning to move forward too. Have you begun to see that the theme of my article is about moving ?

Moving is hard work! It means you have to spend time deciding what items to keep and what items to get rid of. I have a tendency to accumulate a lot of "stuff" that I think I'll use someday but never do. It is hard to "let go" of the "stuff" we accumulate. It forces us to prepare for the future and not stay in the past.

We all need to "make a move" at times in our lives. Maybe it isn't a spacial move but a spiritual move we need to make. As you evaluate your spiritual house are there items that you need to "let go" of?

Take courage. With God's help all moves are possible.

Peace,

Jerry

P.S. We will be gone from July 20-30 for the General Assembly. Our last Sunday will be August 17.

ELDERS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

All Elders, both past and present, please mark on your calendars August 5. This is the Tuesday evening when we have a date with Jerry and Diane to take them to Casa d'Angelo's on Fairfield at 6:00 p.m. Don't forget!

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome - even if you have no previous experience!

We are also in need of supplies: thread, old sheets, baby yarn, & scrap material for quilting.

Drama PRACTICE

***Saturday, July**

***10:00 a.m.**

***Parlor**

***New members are welcome.**

ANDY COOK RECOGNIZED AS ELDER EMERITUS

At the Congregational Meeting in June, Andy Cook was voted unanimously to obtain status as Elder Emeritus of First Christian Church. Rev. Jerry Zehr presented Andy with his pin and expresed the congregation's appreciaition for his many years of service. Andy is recuperating at home from the stroke he had in the spring of this year. He enjoys visits from friends, so give him a call and say hi!

DON SMITH RECOGNIZED AS USHER EMERITUS

Don Smith was unanimously voted, at the congregational meeting in June, to obtain status as Usher Emeritus for his many years of service as "Head Usher" and Deacon of First Christian Church. Rev. Jerry Zehr presented Don with his pin and expressed the congrgation's appreciation for his many years of service.

A Hiking We Will Go August 3rd

Children 3 years -5th grade will to to Lindenwood Park for a hike to see the wonders of God's world on August 3rd. We will leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. and return by the end of 2nd worship service at 12:00 noon. We'll need a permission slip signed by parents so we'll have some on hand for you to sign as you bring your children that day. Be sure to come dressed for a hike - socks and shoes (no sandles), long pants.

Summer Teachers
Judy Church
Laura Whitworth
Sue Brey
Judy Mey

AT BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP

Men your turn for camp is coming up soon! September 26-28 are the dates for the **1997 Barbee Men's Retreat.** Registration will be from 3:00p.m. 'til 5:30p.m. Friday evening. The Retreat will end with worship on Sunday morning.

The purpose of this men's retreat is, "To enable men to focus with each other on the male spiritual journey in relation to sons, fathers and God, with an overall goal if inviting men to see how they can start or enhance solid men's groups in their own local congregation. It will touch on the issue of men as mentors for younger men/children in their congregations."

This year's theme is : "HOW DO YOU SPELL FATHER?" Dr. Bud Roberts will be the resource leader . Bud grew up in the Belgian Congo as the son of missionaries . His wife, Norma, is an Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Illinois/Wisconsin. Bud and Norma have raised 3 children of their own as well as having worked with young people in the various ministries he's been a part of. Presently, Bud is working as a pastoral counselor/ psychotherapist/ teacher for BroMenn Counseling Services in Bloomington/ Normal, Illinois. In addition to his private practice there Bud offers mentoring, spiritual journey retreats, and other services to churches, regions, and pastors.

The retreat should be a lot of fun as well as a chance to grow spiritually . A Fun Festival, Canoe race and Campfire are among the many activities offered. You don't want to miss this!

For more information and registrations call Larry Brey at 447-3540.

Come! Ye who seek the Gospel!

The Gospel Seekers Class will meet for a potluck dinner on July 26 at 5 p.m. at the home of Dick and Diane Mory. Bring food to share. Meat, drinks, and table service will be provided. 320 West Concord lies between Calhoun and Fairfield just south of the Foster Park McComb Funeral home, house number on the light post, park benches in the front yard. Questions? 456-3961. Please come!

Joys & Concerns

Glenn E. Miller has been in the Parkview hospital in room 250, bed 1.

Sue Allen will be going to the Mayo Clinic for surgery.

Jim Shirley is in Lindenview.

Sue Curley's mother is having knee surgery.

Please keep Sue Brickley's mother in your prayers.

Bill Ludwig is going in for tests.

The **D.M.A.** will be meeting again on August 5th.

They'll have a carry-in Luncheon at Noon here at the church to honor Jerry and Diane Zehr and also to give you a chance to meet our new secretary, Dianne Dunn.

There will be surprise entertainment, too.

Come join us!

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that the Tidings will be published every other week during July and August?

***Did you know*.....**that we have 33 people signed up for the Wizards game, July 20?

***Did you know*.....**Orda Glentzer is going to be 99 years old on August 4th!

***Did you know*.....**that Bud & Mary Sue Ludwig had a new granddaughter - Abigail Elizabeth

***Did you know*.....**that Beulah Timmons was back in worship on Sunday, July 6

***Did you know*.....**that Bill & Jo Franklin are our voting delegates to General Assembly

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Last week (7-6)	166	$3,523.88	$4,700.33
Year-to-date	181	$95,140.88	$89,092.40

Don't Shoot the Horse

The title of this article is a prelude to our stewardship program, therefore by reading the title you may choose to continue reading or ignore the rest of our comments. Our purpose in using this approach carries the connotation that a change is coming.

Historically, our Disciple Churches have conducted annual Stewardship programs to fund congregational ministries. The success of the program is totally dependent upon the "bottom-line" results. This is the "Horse" we have been using for many years. We have accepted this method and at times suffered because of the lack of a better approach. We would like to propose a change that has proven work able in other areas and that is "Team Work" versus "Bottom Line" results. Let's not dwell on Financial Goals but **focus on the processes that embody our vision and mission**. Our understanding of the church's mission has profound consequences. How much do we communicate to those beyond our church doors?

We all get excited when God's Mission meets peoples needs. We are happy when our hands have been able to touch a life or lift a burden. Mission is at our doorstep and at doorsteps we never see.

Doorstep Mission Includes:

1. A prison cell where someone needs God's Word
2. A village in Nepal receiving aid from our church
3. A support of the food bank
4. A support of "Babies Closet"
5. A church presence in South Fort Wayne that provides services for the immediate community and is verbally communicated by the members.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JULY 17
10:00 a.m. Drama Practice

SUNDAY, JULY 20
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Wizards Game
4:00 p.m. Youth Council Meeting

MONDAY, JULY 21
7:00 p.m. Special Board Meeting
9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle

NO TIDINGS THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, JULY 25
5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY, JULY 26
p.m. Wedding

SUNDAY, JULY 27
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND:

While getting ready for the Rummage Sale, a red nylon billfold (Sporties) was discovered in the Lost and Found basket in the Fellowship Hall. There are family photographs inside. Some of the children's names are Eric and Autumn. Also there is an old photograph of a house and the inscription on the back that says "My home in Decatur, Michigan 1923-1926". If anyone has a clue to who owns this billfold, please contact the church office.

FOUND:

There has been in the church office for the last several weeks a very nice, if slightly dirty, white golf umbrella. If you have misplaced such an umbrella (with the name Secura Insurance and Related Services printed on it) we know where it is.

FOUND:

There is also a black umbrella in the lost & found box near the South door.

FOUND:

A pair of eyeglasses with light brown plastic frames.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame July 20th!

This is the week-end when our group from First Christian Church visits Fort Wayne's Memorial Stadium for the Wizards' baseball game on Sunday at two o'clock.

Thirty-three of the Disciples of Christ will be going to rout for the local baseball team — let's hope they pull out a victory.

One of the highlights of the contest (as far as we are concerned) will come at the bottom of the seventh inning when Fort Wayne comes to bat. First Christian's Lori Crouter will climb atop the Wizards dugout to sing "Take Me Out to the Ball game. "Let's give her a big round of applause after she warbles it !

SERVING JULY 20

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Ohneck, J.Church
10:45 a.m. C. McGrew, D. Heimann

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L.Heimann, O. McDougle,K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION JULY 20 & JULY 27

Mike Mullen, Christi Deck, Mindy Deck

HOME COMMUNION

G. Bruckman & J. Bohlen, J. Ohneck & S. Brey, J. Mey & L. Brey, B. Widmer & R. Wise

SERVING JULY 27

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Blocher, K. Ohneck
10:45 a.m. S.Hayes, B.Widmer

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, B. Proegler
10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, E. Yeoman, G. Cole, C. Deck, L. Deck R. Wise.

EMBERS BIRTHDAYS JULY 16-AUGUST 6

Thelma Swift(17), Barbara Clevenger(17), sue Oden(18), George Davis(18), Thomas Mathis(19), D.J. Rinker 22), Jackson Phomsoupa(22), Mary Wilhelm(23),Dustin McEvoy(23), Forrest Smith(24), Alisha Stover(24), Kristie Howard(25), Woody Klepfer(26), Glenn D. Miller(27), Sue Brey(27), Laura Bowser(31), Glenn R. Miller(8-1), Wanda Howell(1), Dick Mory(1), Lori Lewis(1), Kelly Walsh(1), Christopher Olson(3), Gloria Phillips(4), Karen Lands(4)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH *Tidings*

(Disciples of Christ)

JULY 30, 1997 Volume 54, No. 25

RECEPTION FOR ZEHRS

Sunday, August 17th is the last day that we will have the honor and blessing of Diane's and Jerry's presence amongst us and their ministry to us. To give us a chance to honor and thank them for the way the Lord has used them to touch our lives there will be a light reception following second service that day.

Come, join us in a special time of fellowship and thanksgiving!

C.L.E.A.R. DAY 1997

Inside you will find a flyer about a very exciting opportunity - CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS' EDUCATION and RENEWAL - C.L.E.A.R. DAY 1997. Whether you have just accepted a new leadership responsibility or you need new ideas fora position you've held for a while, this workshop is for you! Please note that there are only 300 places, so get your registration from the church office and into the mail early! Registration deadline is September 12. If you register before September 9 you save $2.00. Don't miss this chance to learn from the best! (Did you see that our own Teresa Hatten is one of the leaders?!) Hurry to get your registration!

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr

Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman

From Here to Zehr

As you read this article we are returning from the General Assembly. The Assembly is a gathering of all Disciple congregations in the U.S. and Canada. It is a time of worship, studying and discussion of the issues of the day and how our Christian beliefs should impact our action. The Assembly reminds me of our great heritage as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are a church that is congregational in it's decision making process and yet we are connected to many other churches. We have the best of both worlds between the independent churches and the strong denominational churches like the Presbyterian or the Methodist Church. We do not have a Bishop or Ruling Body that governs what we do as a local congregation but we also are not "going it alone" in our ministry. We are connected to many congregations across the globe by our choice of joining them in a covenantal agreement. I hope you will take a moment to appreciate our roots and history as a church in a great movement of churches.

See you Sunday,

Jerry

P.S: Many of you heard that we did not make it to the Assembly because I got very sick half way there and we decided to come home. The Assembly is worth going to and especially in 1999 when it will be in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is only eight miles north of Florence, Kentucky. We hope you'll come and see us!

ELDERS DON'T FORGET!

All Elders, both past and present, please mark on your calendars August 5. This is the Tuesday evening when we have a date with Jerry and Diane to take them to Casa d'Angelo's on Fairfield at 6:00 p.m.

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome - even if you have no previous experience!

We are also in need of supplies: thread, old sheets, baby yarn, & scrap material for quilting.

PICK UP YOUR QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

Second quarter statements of financial giving are ready and will be available in the narthex this Sunday, August 3. Please make an effort to pick yours up and save us the postage cost of mailing it. Thank You!

TIDINGS SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

The Tidings will next be published on the 13th of August then again on the 20th. If I have sufficient dates for the September calendar it will be published with the 20th Tidings. The next publication date after that will be September 3rd. Due to the holiday, articles should be in early. Thank you!

A Hiking We Will Go This Sunday

Children 3 years -5th grade will to to Lindenwood Park for a hike to see the wonders of God's world this Sunday, August 3rd. We will leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. and return by the end of 2nd worship service at 12:00 noon. We'll need a permission slip signed by parents so we'll have some on hand for you to sign as you bring your children that day. Be sure to come dressed for a hike - socks and shoes (no sandles), long pants.

Summer Teachers
Judy Church, Laura Whitworth ,
Sue Brey, Judy Mey

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
July 13	134	$3,523.88	$2,391.70
Year-to-date	180	$95,140.88	$91,524.10
July 20	138	$3,523.88	$1,925.29
Year-to-date	178	$98.664.76	$93,449.39

THE ADVENTURE CLUB NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

First Christian Church has been selected by the Local Education Fund's **Project READS** to be one of sixteen neighborhood reading sites. We will provide children in grades Kindergarten to Third Grade with after school assistance in reading. **You** are needed to spend time working with one or two children to give them the confidence and tools they need to become successful readers and students. Adventures in Reading will be from 3:45 - 4:45 P.M. each Thursday beginning September 18. Just one hour a week reading with a child and helping that child read to you can make a tremendous impact on that student's achievement. Please consider becoming a READS volunteer. (Volunteers of all ages from middle school on are needed.)

Adventures in Peacemaking will be from 4:45 - 6:00 P.M. During this time, the children will learn how to become peacemakers through the Arts and other activities. Also, once each month, the families of the children will be invited to share a meal and parents will learn how to become partners in their children's success while the children are participating in other activities. Volunteers are needed for those times as well. Please call Teresa Hatten at 447-2649 as soon as possible to volunteer. Applications must be processed through The Fort Wayne Community Schools Study Connection and this takes several weeks.

WIZARDS UPDATE

The group of First Christian members did not bring good luck on its trip to see the Wizards play on July 20th. As a matter of fact, the Wizards suffered their largest loss of the season 17-1. To make matters worse, due to a communication error, Lori Crouter never got to sing her song at the bottom of the seventh inning ! However, we'll make up for it, as **she WILL sing both the National Anthem at the start and "Take Me Out To The Ballgame" at the stretch half of the seventh on Thursday night, August 21st** at Memorial Stadium! First Christian Church can also take advantage another way that evening as up to 33 tickets, the same number we church goers paid on July 20th, will be available for us at half the price we paid before. **Each ticket will only cost <u>$2.50,</u>** provided we reserve at least 20 for the game! Get your reservations in as soon as possible at the church office to get them at the low, low rate! (It's also 50 cent hot dog night. All the hot dogs you can eat for $.50 each instead of the usual $1.75!)

Joys & Concerns

Vince Wells is recovering at home from outpatient surgery he had last Friday.

Keep Ruth Truesdell and her family in your prayers as the grieve the death of her husband John Truesdell 7/21. A memorial service was held Sunday afternoon at the church.

Remember Bob Ludwig, Earl Plummer, & Beth Hendricks in your prayers also .

D.M.A. TO HONOR JERRY AND DIANE WITH LUNCH!

The D.M.A. will be meeting again on August 5th.

They'll have a carry-in Luncheon at Noon here at the church to honor Jerry and Diane Zehr and also to give you a chance to meet our new secretary, Dianne Dunn.

There will be surprise entertainment, too. Come join us!

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....that the Tidings will be published on the 13th & 20th of August and the 3rd of September**

***Did you know*.....that First Christian was recognized for being a Project Reads site last year.**

***Did you know*.....Orda Glentzer is going to be 99 years old on August 4th!**

***Did you know*.....that First Christian received an award from the Regional Office for being in the "Indiana Church Planters Club". This is for assisting in the planting of new churches in Indiana.**

***Did you know*.... that Ron and Caren Wise moved into their new home this past Friday. Their new address & phone number are: 14815 Sea Holly Ct. 46804, 625-5452.**

***Did you know*.....that Pat Mullen will begin her time as student minister this Sunday, August 3rd, at Central Christian Church in Huntington.**

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

Don't Shoot the Horse
(until you learn to drive the tractor)

At the turn of the 20th century most farming and some transportation required the use of horses. Also at this time tractors began to appear on the farm. As people learned to use the tractor, the horse became a pet. We kept them around and fed them until they finally died.

Our annual financial campaign is like an old horse. Fifty years ago the campaign may have been the best way to meet the needs of the church. Today this is not getting the job done. The lack of activity is not cured by harnessing a better horse. ***We need a renewed vision and/or mission for our church life.***

WARNING: We can not stop having campaigns until we have a total year - round plan to meet the spiritual needs of the people.

(DON'T SHOOT THE HORSE)

1. Giving is part of an individual's personal journey toward wholeness.
2. Giving is essential to the mission of ministry.

The search committee is currently reviewing information to secure and Interim Pastor. Please keep them in your prayers as they make this very important decision.

CHURCH CALENDAR

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
6:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2
1:00 p.m. Burridge-Taylor Wedding (at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church)
4:30 p.m. Hess-Davis Wedding
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5
9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle
12:00 noon D.M.A. Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Elders dinner at Casa's
NO TIDINGS THIS WEEK
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12
6:30 p.m. ***Administrative Board***
7:30 p.m. ***Board of Trustees Meetin***

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Maude Goodrich, Room 107
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Lucille Branstrator, 9721 Coverdale Road 46809
Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

SERVING AUGUST 3

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, A. Moll
10:45 a.m. G. Klepfer, J. Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Rieke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION AUGUST 3 & 10

J. Ott, L. Deck, C. Falbe

HOME COMMUNION

D. Heiman & Kris Scott, C. Hatten & L. Stover, J. Church & S. Brinkley, B. Bier & E. Yeoman

SERVING AUGUST 10

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. G. Bruckman, E. Conrad
10:45 a.m. B. Franklin, C. Hatten

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, B. Proegler, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, m. McDougle, O. McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, S. Brickley

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 1 -AUGUST 20

Glenn R. Miller(1), Wanda Howell(1), Dick Mory(1), Lori Lewis(1), Kelly Walsh(1), Christopher Olson(3), Gloria Phillips(4), Karen Lands(4), Laura Krouse(8), Elizabeth Moody(8), Ronald Elliott(8), Orda Glentzer(9), Linda Wiley(9), Beverly Johnston(10), Charline Craig(10), Jennifer Medlin(10), John Ohneck(11), Laura Whitworth(11), Marilyn Snouffer(11), Teresa Crain(11), Marge Mitchell(13), John Bohlen(17), Wilma Miller(18), Bob Bier(18), Lois Finkhousen(18), Lori Crouter(19), Charles Linn(19), Milissa Lands(19), Nancy Butcher (20)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
Tidings

August 13, 1997 Volume 54, No. 26

From Here to Zehr

This will be my last article as your Senior Pastor. I want to thank so many of you for your support and love over these last six years. I will always remember those who stood with us as we made some beautiful renovations, and exciting changes for the church. I will cherish the adventurous spirit of people as we tried some new projects like a 'Walk to Bethlehem", V.B.S., and the summer program. The youth kept me youthful with their "Strings and Stars," lock-ins, and Sunday School class. I have felt privilege d that many of you have allowed me to share with you in your celebrations and trials of life.

It has been a joy to be able to work together with Diane and share in ministry together. I feel like we worked well together and strengthened each others weaknesses.

Thank you for laughing at my bad jokes,and smiling when I sang.

Remember, You are God's Child!

Shine like Stars!
Love,
Jerry

Our new address & phone are:
6161 Rocky Fork Drive, Apt. 95
Burlington, KY 41005
(606) 746-3172

Church address & phone:
300 S. Main St.
Florence, KY 41042
(606) 647-5000

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

From Here to Diane Zehr

I think the apostle Paul must have led a difficult life and ministry moving as often as he did. I am thinking about him as we prepare to leave this ministry and move on the Florence, Kentucky. How do we say good-bye to you who have been our church family and friends for these 6 years?

There is no adequate way and yet Jerry and I do treasure so many of the relationships we have shared, so many of the things we have accomplished together for God.

Do know this: We will always hold you dear to us and continue to pray for your ministry and your lives.

Grace and peace to you always.

Love,

Diane Zehr

I Am God's Child

I may be Black
I may be White
I may be Wild
I may be Uptight
But I am God's child

I may be Rich
I may be Poor
I may be Exciting
I may be a bore
But I am God's child

I may be IN
I may be Out
I may be Tall
I may be Stout
But I am God's child.

Mistreated
Unseated
But never defeated
Because I am....
Because I am....
Because I am...
God's Child

A Thank You to "The Mildreds"

People make a difference, and the commitment to plant seeds does reap a harvest. As we celebrate the renovation of our facility many people do not know that without the seed money from Mildred Hartman, and Mildred Hutchison the renovation might not have happened. A year after I was here some of the leadership of the church met with the Mildreds to discuss their desire to give the church some seed money to build some new restrooms. With that encouragement and money in hand we developed a capital task force and the rest is history.

I share this story for two reasons. One, to say thank you to Mildred Hutchison and Mildred Hartman for their vision and commitment. Two, to encourage people to set money aside in their wills and trust funds. Without special gifts from individuals many of the projects of the church would never be completed.

When I walk through the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, I feel so uplifted to see the new renovations.

Thank you for the hard work and commitment you made to see this to completion.

Jerry

THANK YOU FIRST CHRISTIAN FAMILY

We are greatly encouraged by so many of you who have given us your blessing and affirmed us as we now begin our ministry at West Creighton Avenue Christian Church.

As we reflect back over the first half of the year in our time at First Christian, we can surely see that both of us have gained a deeper understanding and experience of God's presence in our lives because of you. **Thank you!**

I, Steve, have "learned" how much I have yet to learn. My weaknesses become more evident along the way. The ungraceful urgency I sometimes feel about my vision in one area of ministry leads to blind spots obscuring vision for other areas.

How much do we all need to be guided by the Spirit of Christ which at times calls us to cooperate with the transformation of our weaknesses into strengths and other times calls us to give of our strengths with humility and the attitude of a servant. Surely there are many of you that come to our minds who are led by the Spirit in these ways!!

THANK YOU cont.

Even now as we enter into new relationships through which we will experience Christ with us, we pray that you will know Christ even more deeply as you continue to serve God within the family of First Christian Church.

May you have the assurance of having all that you need so that you may freely commit yourselves as living witnesses of Christ's ongoing presence through the Body of Christ in mission to the world.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

Steve & Amy Vachon

Harold E. Cline to be Honored

A dinner in honor of **Harold E. Cline,** former **Interim Regional Minister** *of the Christian Church in the Southwest* will be given on August 14th in Fort Worth, Texas. The dinner is being given in appreciation for his ministry in this position from 1995 till 1997.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
July 27	119	$3,523.88	$1,660.00
Year-to-date	176	$105,716.40	$95,109.39
August 3	151	$3,523.88	$4,567.33
Year-to-date	175	$109,240.28	$99,676.72

ADVENTURE CLUB

First Christian Church has been selected by the Local Education Fund's **Project READS** to be one of sixteen neighborhood reading sites. We will provide children in grades Kindergarten to Third Grade with after school assistance in reading. **You** are needed to spend time working with one or two children to give them the confidence and tools they need to become successful readers and students. Adventures in Reading will be from 3:45 - 4:45 P.M. each Thursday beginning September 18. Just one hour a week reading with a child and helping that child read to you can make a tremendous impact on that student's achievement. Please consider becoming a READS volunteer. (Volunteers of all ages from middle school on are needed.)

After-School Program

Adventures in Peacemaking will be from 4:45 - 6:00 P.M. During this time, the children will learn how to become peacemakers through the Arts and other activities. Also, once each month, the families of the children will be invited to share a meal and parents will learn how to become partners in their children's success while the children are participating in other activities. Volunteers are needed for those times as well. Please call Teresa Hatten at 447-2649 as soon as possible to volunteer. Applications must be processed through The Fort Wayne Community Schools Study Connection and this takes several weeks.

ATTENTION!

ALL PARENTS OF 3RD-5TH GRADERS

Welcome to Worship is a series of 4 classes for those who are just beginning to be in worship for the whole hour. It is taught by one of our elders, Eunice Conrad. Together she and the children explore what worship is about, why we take communion and other aspects of the service that can give more meaning to their experience.

Even if your child has been through the program before, they are invited to attend each year they are 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders. At the end of the series, each child who has not yet received a Bible from the church will be presented with one during a time of recognition in worship.

Dates this year are: September 7, 14, 21, and 28. Bibles will be presented on October 6th.

Please call the church office to register your child.

Joys & Concerns

Our congratulations to these couples who have recently married on Saturday, August 2 :

Kenneth & Diana (Burridge) Taylor

and

James & Alycia (Hess) Davis.

Brenda Kelly will be having heart surgery Monday morning, Aug.,18.

Keep **Sue Allen** in your prayers as she recovers at home after surgery.

Jack Phillips was able to leave the hospital on Wed., Aug., 6.

Hey Everybody-- Let's Go To the Hop!!

That's right — A Sock Hop! Sunday , September 28th. Mark your Calendars!! We want to see you there.!

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....that Lori Crouter has moved to Coventry Court? Her new address is 506 Birchtree Ln Apt. C. -07**
Phone number: 456-0079

***Did you know*...that Mindy Deck also has a new address: 7312 Lake Ridge Dr. -19**

***Did you know*....Herb & Kathlyn Banet are now living at 2622 Covington Commons Dr. -04. Phone: 436-7928**

***Did you know*.....that Tawnia Comer & Cearstin have moved to 4620 Butler Rd. -08**

***Did you know*.....that Doris and Max Finkhousen will celebrate 50 years of marriage on August 29th!**

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

Collecting For the Needs of Others

The Women's Rescue Mission needs:

New Twin size **sheets & comforters**
Women's & children's **clothes**
Women's & children's **health products**
School Supplies, New **towel sets**

Please bring to church Sunday, Aug.17 or 24. Kris Ohneck will deliver them the week of Aug. 25.

Our New Members

We welcome Jim and Lori Shearer into the family at First Christian. They came forward to join this past Sunday, August 10th. If you haven't met them yet, do so soon. They usually attend the second service. Their picture can be found on the new member board.

TIDINGS SCHEDULE

The Tidings will be published again next week. The next publication date after that will be September 3rd. Due to the holiday, articles should be in early. Thank you!

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16
3:00 p.m. Chapel in use
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
12:00noon Reception for Zehrs
MONDAY, AUGUST 5
12:00 noon Deadline for Tidings Articles (Including Sept. Calendar dates)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 21
7:00 p.m. Wizards Game
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22
6:30 p.m. Rehearsal
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23
3:30 p.m. Wedding
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Teacher Training Meeting, North Christian Church

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Covington Manor Nursing Center, 5700 Wilkie Dr. 46804
Lucille Branstrator

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 317-1

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

SERVING AUGUST 17

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Ohneck, J. Church,

10:45 a.m. D. Heimann, B. Widmer

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis,
D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m R. Baitz, J. Baitz, D. Bohlen,
J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G.Cole, C. Deck

COMMUNION PREPARATION AUGUST 17 & 24

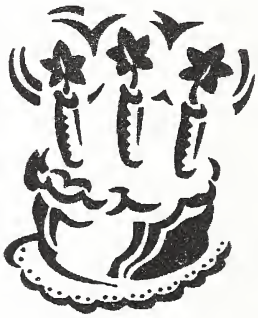
D. Schuricht, E.Gorman, Holly Mathis

HOME COMMUNION

Kris Ohneck & Marlene Crouse, Judy Church & Linda Deck, D. Heimann & Leo Heimann, Bill Franklin & Eric Reike.

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 17-31

John Bohlen(17), Wilma Miller(18), Bob Bier(18), Lois Finkhousen(18), Lori Crouter(19), Charles Linn(19), Melissa Lands(19), Nancy Butcher (20), Marie Redman(24), Irvin Koehlinger(25), Julie Briggs(26), Gene Shirley(31), Barb Hayes(31)



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH Tidings

(Disciples of Christ)

August 20, 1997 Volume 54, No. 27

!! GOOD NEWS !!

The search committee is very glad to announce that Rev. Bill M. Riggs has accepted our call to become Interim Senior Pastor. He will lead us through the months ahead as we search for replacements for Jerry and Diane.

Bill comes to us from Carmel Christian Church (north of Indianapolis) where he just finished a successful interim ministry. He had previously served as interim pastor at Marion Christian and Elkhart Central Christian. The committee earnestly solicits your prayers as we move ahead with the search process.

For the Search Committee,
Bill Franklin

Introducing Bill Riggs

You'll find Pastor Bill Riggs an easy person to talk with. He's a delightful man with lots of experience with churches. He will be an enabler for us as we continue our programs already in place. Be here when he fills the pulpit for the first time on **Sept. 7** (which is also Sunday School kick-off day, by the way—big day all around!)

Pastor Bill grew up in a little country Disciples church where he played the piano and did some preaching while he was still in high school. His A.B. is from Phillips University in Enid, OK, in 1954; his M.Div. from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo.

Ministers: Rev. Jerry and Rev. Diane Zehr
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMORIES

COME AND SEE! was the theme chosen for the 1997 General Assembly in Denver. This theme was most appropriate for this Disciples gathering. Denver is such a beautiful city situated in an awe inspiring natural setting. The city sits on the western edge of the great plain of the continent, with the magnificent Rocky Mountains rising to the west. We *flatlanders* were inspired and enchanted by the city and its surroundings. Moreover, the warmth and hospitality of our hosts made the visit even more memorable.

Before Joan and I relate some of the highlights of our visit we want to thank the congregation for sending us as your representatives. We hope we represented ALL of you at the assembly.

The overall format of all the General Assemblies is basically the same; the conference opens and closes with worship. To Joan and I these services are the most meaningful times. From the very first worship on Friday, when we were inspired by Dick Hamm's message, to the closing service the following Tuesday, the Holy Spirit was very real in the assembled Disciples. It was especially evident as we closed with the most spiritual rendition of Handel's Messiah we have ever heard. It was Awesome!

We were surprised to learn when Dick Hamm spoke that he had been in a serious accident a few months prior to the assembly. He was not seriously hurt but his host was injured so badly that he died a few days later. Thank God, Dick is O.K.!

It would take far too much space and time to relate all of the experiences we had during the 5 day meeting, but let us relate to you some impressions and some feelings we had.

First, the most joyful thing was the energy, joy and plain fun of having more than 1600 youths in attendance. We got to meet many of them and we feel that our church is heading for great things as these fine young people mature and move into leadership. You could literally feel their joy in their faith and in our denomination.

We have a special memory of our trip to Colorado Springs on Sunday to attend service at F.C.C. To our amazement, we sat down after church to a great meal prepared by members of the church. And would you believe it, we sat next to people from Anderson, Muncie, and Indianapolis! (Disciples sure do know how to have great church dinners!)

All of the business sessions were well attended. Debate was open and not argumentative. The only item that did not pass had to do with a reduction in the size of the National Board of Directors.

We kept running into old friends

(continued on page 3)

Memories
(cont. from pg 2)

roughout the meeting. Jim Grimshaw was ne of the first persons we bumped into— e's doing well and sends his love to all. /e were unable to see Dick Hamm for a ood chat, but were able to give your re- ards and part with a big hug. However, we id get to spend some special time with lindy and Laura. They, too, send their ve. Harold and Ruby Cline look great! e tells us he is really and finally going to tire in September. Sally lives in Denver nd we enjoyed a picnic at her home with er mom and dad. She's a dead ringer for er mother at the same age. Franklin lcGuire thought she ***was her mom,*** and reeted her warmly as Ruby! Joan had to xplain who was who!

We realize that this report is by no neans complete, but if any of you have spe- fic questions about the assembly, just grab s and ask. *We only have one copy of General Assembly News"* (we are attempt- ng to get more). We will leave it in the of- ce for you to take a look at.

In closing we would like to say that in vo years the Assembly will be in Cincin- ati. I'm praying for a bus load from F.C.C. be in attendance! If God wills, the two of s will be there.

Bill & Joan Franklin

Kathy Blocher
and
Jim Crom
were married Saturday, August 16th
in our chapel
The ceremony was conducted by
our own Patricia Mullen
We wish Jim and Kathy all the happiness!

D.M.A. to be in a Pickle Factory

The D.M.A. will be visiting Sechler Pickle on their next outing **SEPTEMBER 9TH.** *Please note the change in date.* This month we will meet on **the 2nd Tuesday** because of the Labor Day Holiday. Don't forget the change or you'll really be in a pickle. You don't want to miss lunch at the Grabill Inn and the covered bridge in Spencerville as well as the interesting trip to Sechler Pickle. There will be carpools leaving from the church at 11:00 am or you may get a map and meet us at the Grabill Inn at Noon. Just don't miss this fun-filled day!

ADVENTURE CLUB

First Christian Church has been selected by the Local Education Fund's **Project READS** to be one of sixteen neighborhood reading sites. We will provide children in grades Kindergarten to Third Grade with after school assistance in reading. **You** are needed to spend time working with one or two children to give them the confidence and tools they need to become successful readers and students. Adventures in Reading will be from 3:45 - 4:45 P.M. each Thursday beginning September 18. Just one hour a week reading with a child and helping that child read to you can make a tremendous impact on that student's achievement. Please consider becoming a READS volunteer. (Volunteers of all ages from middle school on are needed.)

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Dates this year are: September 7, 14, 21, and 28. Bibles will be presented on October 6th.

Please call the church office to register your child.

Joys & Concerns

A special gift bequethed to our church, from **Marvel Brickley**, is one of our many blessings to be shared.

Kathy Blocher and Jim Cron were married last Saturday in the Chapel.

Please keep in your prayers these friends who are not well: **Charles Wrisk, Jack Phillips** and **Bev Hendricks**

Glenn R. Miller was able to go home from Parkview Sunday, Aug.17

George Cole was admitted to St.Joe Monday morning, Aug 18. He's in room 484.

Brenda Kelly had surgery on her Carotid artery Monday, Aug. 18

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... that Bill Riggs, our new Interim Pastor will begin his ministry with us here on **Sept. 7**

Did you know..... that **Sept 7** is also Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday

Did you know..... that there's a great teachers workshop **this Sunday, 2:00** at North Christian

Did you know..... that Lois and Max Finkhousen will celebrate 50 years of marriage on August 29th!

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
August 10	129	$3,523.88	$2,150.22
Year-to-date	174	$112,164.16	$101,826.94

Pastor Bill Riggs (cont. from Pg 1)

He pastored several churches in Missouri and then from 1967-71 he was District Minister, working with 42 churches in the North Central Region. From 1971-81 he pastored at First Christian in Quincy, IL, where he was the only professional staff. Among other responsibilities while there, he was President of the College of Professional Christian Ministers of the Illinois/Wisconsin Region for two years. Also he was a ten-year member of the consultation team of the region which was designed to assist churches in crisis, help them evaluate themselves and their expectations for new leadership during an interim ministry, and provide leadership for congregations seeking a new direction in their life and ministry.

From 1982-91, Pastor Bill served at Northwood Christian Church in Indianapolis where among his many responsibilities was the coordination of a professional staff of four. He also served as president of the Greater Indianapolis Disciples Area Ministers and on the Advisory Board of Christion Theological Seminary, and six years on the Commission on Ministry in Indiana.

Since 1991, he has served as interim for three churches, the last one at Carmel, IN, where his last Sunday will be the 24th. He is eager to get started here and is now trying to find an apartment for himself and his cat Samantha. His two daughters are grown and flown. **Be here Sept. 7 to give Pastor Bill Riggs a warm First Christian welcome!**

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service, George Bruckman Preaching
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
2:00 p.m. Teacher Training Meeting, North Christian Church
5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Group Meeting

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26
9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
NO YOUTH GROUP

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
LABOR DAY- Church Office Closed

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2
6:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Youth Lock-In

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Pastor Bill Riggs Preaching
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. **Kick Off Sunday Choose a Class!**
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service **Welcome to Worship grades 3-5**

KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7TH

When was the last time you said to a young person, "What! Your school starts in a couple weeks? Too bad!" or "So you have home work. What a drag!" Have you ever stopped to think what a negative message that sends about education? Most of us know that education, not only is necessary, but essentioal in this modern world. The more education you have the more successful you are likely to become. Education is a good thing but too often we make a careless remark that leaves an entirely different impression with a child or a youth.

September 7, 1997 begins a new season of Christian Education at First Christian and the Christian Education Committee wants to send a positve, encouraging message about bible study, the undergirding of our faith with learing, that takes place at First Christian Church on sunday mornings between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. We are **excited** about KICK-OFF SUNDAY! there will be new teachers (be kind to them), new study material and somethin for each child to take home with them afterward. Sorry adults, but you can have a cookie at Coffee Hour. the committee will be hosting that Sunday. Last week in the Tidings you received the brochure de-

KICKOFF cont.

scribing all of the classes available. If you have never attended a Sunday School Class, we hope you will decide to do so September 7th.

Collecting For the Needs of Others

The Women's Rescue Mission needs:

New Twin size **sheets & comforters**
Women's & children's **clothes**
Women's & children's **health products**
School Supplies,
New **towel sets**

Please bring to church *THIS* Sunday.
Kris Ohneck will deliver them next week.

TIDINGS SCHEDULE

The next publication for the Tidings will be September 3rd. Due to the holiday, articles should be in the week before. Thank you!

SERVING AUGUST 24

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Ohneck, K.Cron

10:45 a.m. C. McGrew, J. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J.Ott, D. Shuricht

10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Riecke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION

AUGUST 24

T. Knuckles, E.Gorman, H. Mathis

SERVING AUGUST 31

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Ann Moll, Bob Bier

10:45 a.m. J. Mey, S. Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O.McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION

AUGUST 31

B. Proegler, M. McDougle, O. McDougle

HOME COMMUNION

B. Widmer & M. Mullen, J. McGrew & E. Gorman, C. Hatten & R. Wise, G. Bruckman & S. Rudy

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 24-SEPTEMBER 10

Marie Redman(24), Irvin Koehlinger(25), Julie Briggs(26), Gene Shirley(31), Barb Hayes(31), Dan Moll(9-1), Mildred Sarrazin(9-1), Mildred Jewell(9-1), Jason Cobb(9-1), Grace Truby(2), Raymond Sarrazin(2), Evelyn Yeoman(2), Jessica Hatten(3), Diane Mory(4), Billy Suder(4), Teresa Hatten(7), Katherine Smart(8), Kris Ohneck(9), Phyllis Lahr(9), Janice Ashton (10)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

SEPTEMBER 3, 1997 Volume 54, No. 28

!! GOOD NEWS !!

The search committee is very glad to announce that Rev. Bill M. Riggs has accepted our call to become Interim Senior Pastor. He will lead us through the months ahead as we search for replacements for Jerry and Diane.

Bill comes to us from Carmel Christian Church (North of Indianapolis) where he just finished a successful interim ministry. He had previously served as interim pastor at Marion Christian and Elkhart Central Christian.

This Sunday, September 7th, will be Bill's first time to speak to First Christian from the pulpit. Come, meet and welcome our new interim pastor, hear what he has to share and join the journey we now begin!

Today, September 2, 1997, we begin a journey together as Interim Pastor and the people of God who worship and serve through First Christian Church, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. I look forward to the journey we will share.

"Interim" is an interesting word, referring to a time between the times, i.e. between the former pastor's leaving and the arrival of new pastoral leadership for the congregation. This will be my fourth interim ministry since retirement in 1991. Each one has had its own unique character and created a special place in my bank of memories.

(continued on page 3 - Pastor's Pen)

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

KICKOFF SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 7TH

September 7, 1997 begins a new season of Christian Education at First Christian and the Christian Education Committee wants to send a positive, encouraging message about Bible Study, the undergirding of our faith with learning, that takes place at First Christian Church on Sunday mornings between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. We are **excited** about KICK-OFF SUNDAY! There will be ***new teachers*** (be kind to them), ***new study material*** and ***something for each child to take home with them afterward.*** (Sorry adults, but you can have a cookie at Coffee Hour. The committee will be hosting that Sunday.)

The enclosed brochure describes all of the classes available. If you have never attended a Sunday School Class, we hope you will decide to do so THIS SUNDAY.

ATTENTION!

ALL PARENTS OF 3RD-5TH GRADERS

Welcome to Worship is a series of 4 classes for those who are just beginning to be in worship for the whole hour. It is taught by one of our elders, Eunice Conrad. Together she and the children explore what worship is about, why we take communion and other aspects of the service that can give more meaning to their experience.

THIS SUNDAY BOTH SUNDAY SCHOOL AND WELCOME TO WORSHIP START . JOIN IN THE FUN!

Even if your child has been through the program before, they are invited to attend each year they are 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders. At the end of the series, each child who has not yet received a Bible from the church will be presented with one during a time of recognition in worship.

Dates this year are: September 7, 14, 21, and 28. Bibles will be presented on October 6th.

Please call the church office to register your child.

PASTOR'S PEN (continued)

I approach interim ministry as I would any other call to ministry with a congregation, with two notable exceptions. First, we know going into this rela- tionship that our time together is limited. The Search Committee will be hard at work, studying the needs of the congregation and evaluating the gifts of ministry present in candidates for the position. During this interim time, I want to be present with you and for you as a pastor and friend.

Secondly, the interim time is not a time to make major changes in the worship and work of the congregation. Hopefully, we will maintain the vitality in the ministries you have undertaken and strengthen them as we move forward to- gether.

I look forward to greeting you on September 7 as we worship together and launch a program year. I will be preaching on the theme "Joined In Progress" for my first sermon as Interim Pastor. We will celebrate your past and your present ministries as well as point to some creative pos- sibilities as we continue the journey of faith to which we are each committed.

Shalom,

Bill M. Riggs

D.M.A. CHANGES

The D.M.A. is still planning to visit Sechler Pickle next Tuesday, **SEPTEMBER 9TH** but luncheon plans have changed to the **Eat 'n Haus** in Spencerville. They will also be seeing the covered bridge in Spencerville. Carpools will be leaving from the church at 11:00 am or you may get a map and meet us at the Eat 'n Haus at Noon. Just don't miss this fun-filled day!

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

This Saturday Night - Lock-In
9:00p.m. through Sunday morning church services. There will be mid- night bowling so be sure to bring some money.

September 14 - Youth/Parents Dinner
This will be a dinner for the youth and their parents. We will do some brainstorming as well as eat and have fun.

ADVENTURE CLUB

First Christian Church has been selected by the Local Education Fund's **Project READS** to be one of sixteen neighborhood reading sites. We will provide children in grades Kindergarten to Third Grade with after school assistance in reading. **You** are needed to spend time working with one or two children to give them the confidence and tools they need to become successful readers and students. Adventures in Reading will be from 3:45 - 4:45 P.M. each Thursday beginning September 18. Just one hour a week reading with a child and helping that child read to you can make a tremendous impact on that student's achievement. Please consider becoming a READS volunteer. (Volunteers of all ages from middle school on are needed.)

After-School Program

Adventures in Peacemaking will be from 4:45 - 6:00 P.M. During this time, the children will learn how to become peacemakers through the Arts and other activities. Also, once each month, the families of the children will be invited to share a meal and parents will learn how to become partners in their children's success while the children are participating in other activities. Volunteers are needed for those times as well. Please ca Teresa Hatten at 447-2649 as soon as pos sible to volunteer. Applications must be processed through The Fort Wayne Community Schools Study Connection and th takes several weeks.

Thank you for the wonderful help you have given us - food, furniture and dishes. May God bless each one of you!

Love in Christ,

Dawn, Krystal and Lindsey Pierce

* * * * * *

The Women's Shelter said to say "Thank You" to all who gave items for their immediate use and items for children. They could not express their feelings of appreciation because they are stronger than words can say.

Kris Ohneck

Thanks (continued)

I wish to express my appreciation to Kris Ohneck and Bill Franklin for their efforts Sunday (8/31) during my illness. The health problem came up rather quickly Saturday morning while in Indianapolis. Virginia made a call to Patricia Mullen and was able to engage Kris and Bill to enlarge their responsibilities to include full leadership at each service. I presented Kris and Bill with "Stumbling Blocks" and they, with the grace of God, turned them into "Stepping Stones." This is the Willingness that built this congregation many years ago and it still exists at First Church today.

Kris and Bill, many thanks!

George Bruckman

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that Bill Riggs, our new Interim Pastor will preach his first sermon for us here **this Sunday**

***Did you know*.....**that **this Sunday** is also Sunday School Kick-Off Sunday and the first week for Welcome to Worship

***Did you know*.....**that Dawn, Krystal, and Lindsey Pierce have a new address:

263 E. Hoover Drive 46816

***Did you know*.....**that Don Parlette is visiting with his wife in Kingston Residence.

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
August 17	233	$3,523.88	$2,301.69
Year-to-date	176	$116,288.04	$104,128.63
August 24	139	$3,523.88	$2,110.97
Year -to -date	175	$119,811.92	$106,239.60

AT BARBEE CHRISTIAN CAMP

Men don't for get camp is coming up soon! **September 26-28** are the dates for the **1997 Barbee Men's Retreat.** Registration will be from 3:00p.m. 'til 5:30p.m. Friday evening. The Retreat will end with worship on Sunday morning.

The purpose of this men's retreat is, "To enable men to focus with each other on the male spiritual journey in relation to sons, fathers and God, with an overall goal if inviting men to see how they can start or enhance solid men's groups in their own local congregation. It will touch on the issue of men as mentors for younger men/ children in their congregations."

This year's theme is: **"HOW DO YOU SPELL FATHER?"** Dr. Bud Roberts will be the resource leader . Bud grew up in the Belgian Congo as the son of missionaries. His wife, Norma, is an Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church in Illinois /Wisconsin. Bud and Norma have raised 3 children of their own as well as having worked with young people in the various ministries he's been a part of. Presently,

(continued on page 7 - Men's Retreat)

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
9:00 p.m. Youth Group Lock-In

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
Pastor Bill Riggs Preaching
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. **Kick Off Sunday**
Choose a Class!
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship
grades 3-5

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
5:00-9:00 p.m. Crop Walk
7:00 p.m. Walk to Bethlehem Meeting
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Gre
& Jenny Baitz

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle
12:00 N. D.M.A.
6:30 p.m. Administrative Board
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
5:30 p.m. Wedding

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship
p.m. Youth/Parent Dinner

Joys & Concerns

We are happy to welcome Pastor Bill Riggs as he comes to lead us for a time. Support him with your energy, talents and prayers.

Please keep in your prayers these friends who are not well: **Jack Phillips** and **Bev Hendricks, Barb Hayes' mother** and **Mike Mullins' mother.**

Robin Evans' father had an operation to remove his cancer this Wednesday in Indianapolis. We pray for his speedy recovery.

Our condolences to **Rick Evans** on the death of his grandmother

Remember the **Search Committee** in your prayers as they continue to seek the guidance of God in finding a permanent pastor(s) for First Christian.

Don't forget the SOCK HOP

September 28

You Are Invited

to an Open House
for
Beulah Blackburn Timmons
on the occasion of her
90th Birthday
Sunday, September 14th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Methodist Church
120 E. Main St. (St. Rd. 25)
Mentone, IN
Given by : Her sister & brothers
No gifts please. She would welcome seeing her friends to help her celebrate. Cards are welcome.

Men's Retreat **(cont. from p 6)**

Bud is working as a pastoral counselor/ psychotherapist/ teacher for BroMenn Counseling Services in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois. In addition to his private practice there, Bud offers mentoring, spiritual journey retreats, and other services to churches, regions, and pastors.

A Fun Festival, Canoe race and Campfire are among the many activities also offered. You don't want to miss this!

For more information and registrations call Larry Brey at 447-3540.

SERVING SEPTEMBER 7

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. G. Bruckman, E. Conrad

10:45 a.m. C. Hatten, B. Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J.Ott, D. Shuricht

10:45 a.m. R. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G.Cole, C. Deck, L. McFarland, R.Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION SEPTEMBER 7

B. Proegler, M. McDougle, H. Mathis

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER 3-SEPTEMBER 19

Jessica Hatten(3), Diane Mory(4), Billy Suder(4), Teresa Hatten(7), Katherine Smart(8), Kris Ohneck(9), Phyllis Lahr(9), Janice Ashton (10), Ruth Plummer(12), Rita Alexander(12), Barb Rumpel(12), **Beulah Timmons-90th(13)**, Almeda Rice(15), George Cole(18), Ginny Johnson(19), Mary Navachcoff(19), Richard Crain(19)

Need pecans this year? They are great for pies, candy, eating, and gift giving.

I'm not sure what the cost will be this year but will try to keep it close to $5.00 a pound.

Delivery will depend on the time of harvest. If interested, please call the church office (744-3239) or Rosemary Krull (after 5:00 p.m.) (432-6181) and state how many pound you want.

Thanks,

Rosemary Kru

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Ft. Wayne, IN
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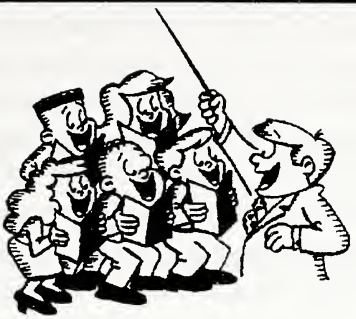
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Tidings

SEPTEMBER 10, 1997 Volume 54, No. 29



Make a Joyful Noise!

Do you sing in the shower or how about in your car when stuck in traffic? Perhaps God is speaking to you. Perhaps He is saying, "Time to let the world in on this hidden gift of yours!" Now's your chance! The music ministries of First Christian are gearing up for another glorious year. **Carillon** will begin rehearsing this **Thursday at 5:45** and **Choir** will begin rehearsing **this Saturday at 1:00 p.m.**

We will also be having a new experience in the form of a **choir retreat** on September 19-20 at the church. It will be an opportunity to jump start the choir this year with time for fellowship, food, fun and fine tuning of our voices and hearts. We will have a special guest Clinician for the Friday evening session!

If you have any desire - be it ever so humble or slight, do not resist. Come and check it out.

September dates for Choir:

September 13 - Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers rehearse, 1:00pm
September 14 - Chamber Singers sing, 7:45 am
September 19 - Choir retreat, 6:30-9 pm
September 20 - Choir retreat, 9-12 am
September 21 - Chancel Choir sings, 7:45 am

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Pastoral Caller: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3259

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Thanks for the wonderful reception on my first Sunday at First Christian Church. There is always a bit of extra excitement in the air when we launch the Fall program. Summer offers a change of pace for many of us, but it is filled with a variety of activities. September marks a return to normalcy and our scattered lives are re-collected.

As I write these words I realize how "uncollected" I am. The move to Fort Wayne last Saturday went very well. Larry Brey, Estel Vandergriff and John Bohlen arrived in Indianapolis with a big truck. We filled it there, unloaded it here (thanks to many other volunteers) and I am now in the exciting process of discovering which box contains what. Samantha, my guard cat, has staked out three window sills for her guard duties and is fulfilling her responsibilities very well.

My new address is 723 Candlelite Court. My home phone number is 456-1324. Feel free to call me there if it is inconvenient to reach me during office hours at the church.

I look forward to greeting you as we gather for worship this Sunday!

Shalom,

Bill

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Kick - Off Sunday was an exciting beginning to our fall season of "Seeing the World Differently Through the Word of God". The helium balloons for the children helped us to imagine how the world views things differently than God views the world. Thanks to the Youth Group and their sponsors for inflating the balloons and decorating during their Lock-In Saturday night.

If you were one of the 90 participants in classes from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., you are helping to send a positive message about Christian education. If you were not a part of one of the 12 different groups that are available, please decide to attend one during the month of September.

Joys & Concerns

Brenda Kelly was in church this week for the first time since her surgery. Keep her in your prayers as her recovery will take longer than she anticipated.

There were 200 people in worship this week including a number of visitors!

There were 90 people of all ages who helped Kick-Off Sunday School with their presence!

Continue to pray for Bev Hendricks and Bill Crouse. They are still feeling poorly.

Susan Burton, Reba Fusselman's granddaughter, had lung surgery this week at Parkview.

Don't forget the SOCK HOP

September 28

2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Dear Church family,

During tests prior to surgery and my stay in the hospital, I experienced God at work through so many of you. John and I thank you so much for your prayers, visits, cards and phone calls. God bless all of you for caring and sharing your love and concern for us.

In Christian Love,
Brenda Kelly

"A MOVING CREW"

I want to thank the following members for helping to move Bill Riggs to Fort Wayne on Saturday: Larry Brey, Estel Vandergriff, John Bohlen, Anne Moll, Sue Brey, Melissa Brey, Sara Brey, Rick Evans, Dick Mey, Mike Mullen.

Sincerely,
Roger Moll

Dear Friends of First Christian,

We are back from vacation and starting our first week down here in Florence Kentucky. We wanted to express our deep appreciation for the love offering and reception on our last Sunday there. It was difficult to say good-bye to people to whom we have become so close. Thank-you for your love and care over the last six years. We will always cherish our friendship and the ministry we shared together.

Remember, the General Assembly is in Cincinnati in 1999. we hope you will make it down. If you are ever down this way stop by .

Florence Christian Church
300 Main Street
Florence, KY 41042

Our home is:
6161 Rocky Fork Dr. Apt. 95
Burlington, KY 41005
(606)746-3172

Remember "Shine like Stars" you are "God's Child".

Blessings

Jerry

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

Parent - Youth Gathering
Sunday, September 14, 5-7 P.M.

Come join the fun! Meet "the Group". find out what we're thinking and planning for a great year. all youth grades 6-12 and their parents are invited. Potato Bar will be provided.

Please bring your own drinks and a dessert to share.

"BLESSING SHOWER"
Sunday, September 28th

The Youth of First Christian Church are hosting a "Blessing Shower" for Julia (Charlie and Teresa Hatten's foster child.) Julia will be returning to her mother in early October. Since she has been such an integral part of our congregation, we would like to show our love and support. Everyone is invited.

You Are Invited

to an Open House
for
Beulah Blackburn Timmons
on the occasion of her
90th Birthday
Sunday, September 14th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Methodist Church
120 E. Main St. (St. Rd. 25)
Mentone, IN
Given by : Her sister & brothers
No gifts please. She would welcome seeing her friends to help her celebrate. Cards are welcome.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
August 31	102	$3,523.88	$3,488.39
Year-to-date	173	$123,335.80	$109,727.99

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, we had three first time, and several 2nd and 3rd time visitors with us in worship.
Brent Wiggins, Deborah Spillers, Mike & Sylverta Blaugher & their children Matt & Christine, Julie Murphy, and George Cole's friend Richard. Look for them again this coming week. Get to know them and what they like. Maybe they'd like to join you in one of the groups you enjoy here at First Christian.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: One full length, navy blue, silk coat with lining. small size with et in pockets. It was left at the church a few weeks ago. Please return to the church office.

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that Jack Weicker has been teaching a Sunday School class for **over 50 years?!**
***Did you know*.....**that Snider's Marching band (of which our **Katie Moll** is a member) took first place in the Banks of the Wabash Band Competition Saturday?
***Did you know*.....**there will be a Harvest dinner on November 23, 1997? It will be a "pitch-in". More information will follow later.
***Did you know*.....**that Calvin & Leotha Jones celebrated their 58th anniversary on august 20th?
***Did you know*.....**that Ruth Truesdell moved to a new apartment? Her new address is:
5202 St. Joe Rd., Apt. 318 46835-3383
***Do you know*.....**who donated the new planter on the driveway entrance to the church?? We certainly appreciate the gift!

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

CHURCH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Wedding

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service, Chamber Singers singing
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship grades 3-5
1:00-4:00 p.m. Beulah Timmons 90th Birthday party
5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth/Parent Dinner

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:00 p.m. Project Reads Training here

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club Begins

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

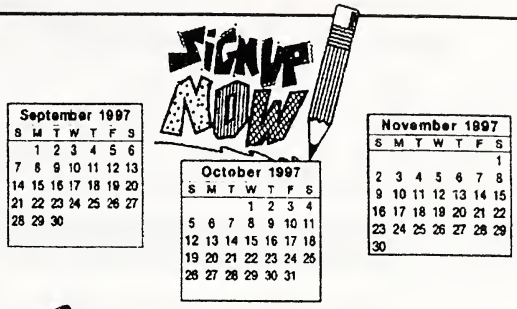
6:30-9:00 p.m. Choir Retreat

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:00-12:00 n. Choir Retreat
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service, Chancel Choir sings
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship
5:00-7:00 Youth Group



In order to better organize our scheduling, a number of monthly calendars have been posted on the bulletin board outside the office. We will try to keep these up to date with the information that comes to the office (such as weddings and outside activities) so that your group or committee will know what is going on and when, then plan accordingly. We would appreciate it if you would add your plans to the calendar as soon as you know them so that we,or some other group, don't inadvertently schedule something that would conflict with your plans. If you would like to schedule something for a month which is not up yet, please let Dianne know and she will make up the calendar for that month. Thank you for your cooperation!

There is a need for additional people for the Prayer chain. If you are interested, please contact Evelyn Yeoman. Her number is: 489-2349.

SERVING SEPTEMBER 14

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Ohneck, J. Church

10:45 a.m. G. Klepfer, D. Heimann

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION SEPTEMBER 14 & 21

J. Arnold, L. Stover, Lori Vandergriff.

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER 10-SEPTEMBER 24

Janice Ashton (10), Ruth Plummer(12), Rita Alexander(12), Barb Rumpel(12), **Beulah Timmons-90th(13),** Almeda Rice(15), George Cole(18), Ginny Johnson(19), Mary Navachcoff(19), Richard Crain(19), Klark Kerley(20), Rosalie Hall(20), Brian Prechtl(22), Lynn Medlin(22), Anita Ellis(23), Robert Petty(24)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

SEPTEMBER 17, 1997 Volume 54, No. 30

FALL CLEAN-UP

We are planning our annual fall clean-up on **Saturday & Sunday October 11 & 12.** We want to get the church grounds looking top-notch. The hours planned for the days are:
8 am to 12 pm on Saturday and directly after second service on Sunday, so bring a change of clothes and a sack lunch.

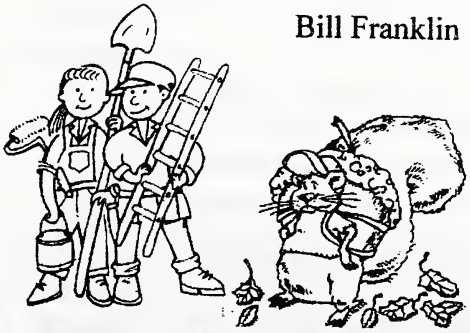
We plan to trim bushes, pull weeds, straighten leaning trees and give the grounds a general cleaning up. We hope that some of you will volunteer to help on one or both of the clean-up days. Please bring along any tools that might help out.

If you can help out, please let Mike McFarland know. His phone number is 436-5839.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

The search committee is happy to announce the appointment of George Bruckman as Interim Associate Pastor. We feel certain his long time relationship with First Christian will enable him to be most helpful as he works with Pastor Bill. We now have an Interim "team"! Please keep them in your prayers as we move into the future.

Bill Franklin



Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

I will be away this week-end on a mini-vacation. No, you have not overworked me in the first two weeks of ministry with you! I had originally planned to take some time off (perhaps a month) between Interims. The Search Committee wanted me on board at the earliest possible date, but did generously agree to my taking a part of my previously planned vacation. Ken Adkins, Administrator of the Emily Flinn Home in Marion will be our speaker for both services on September 21. I will return to Fort Wayne on September 23.

Many exciting things are happening at First Christian! I appreciated the opportunity to share in the Parent/Youth dinner and meeting Sunday evening. We are blessed with some fine youth who are involved with their church and committed to creating a strong youth program here. It is also good to see so many parents who are also willing to provide encouragement and adult support to the program. I survived the "ice-breaker" game which involved stacking several people on one chair.... and I only moderately crushed some of the membership in the process!

I am anxious to return to the challenges before us and look forward to our ministry together as we launch our Fall programs.

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of clothing, hygene items, etc., etc. What a blessing for our women!

May you be doubly blessed for your generosity to us!

In His Love & Service,
Sandra K. Johnson
Charis House

Hey Everybody-- LET'S GO to the HOP!

Hey all you gals & guys
Here's a few words to the wise.
Stroll on in Sunday September 28, 2-5
Let's see **You** Twist & Shout & Hand Jive.
That's right - DressUp - Come - Dance
& have a ball
That's what it's about after all!

DON'T FORGET
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
2-5

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

WORKDAY AT CAMP BARBEE

Fall workday at Barbee will be **Saturday, October 4, 9am-3pm .** We have some painting to do. We will also be re-roofing one of the cabins. A tree needs to come down at the beach and picnic tables put away. (See the Indiana Christian for more specifics.)

Bring your own tools, ladders, saws, etc., if possible. Snack and lunch will be served. Please call 219/834-4190 with reservations for lunch, by Wednesday, October 1. We need your help!

Herb & Sharon

"BLESSING SHOWER"

For Julia
Sunday, September 28th
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Youth of First Christian Church are hosting a "Blessing Shower" for Julia (Charlie and Teresa Hatten's foster child.) Julia will be returning to her mother in early October. Since she has been such an integral part of our congregation, we would like to show our love and support. **Everyone is invited.**

ITEMS JULIA NEEDS:

Crib Sheets
Blanket
Undershirts/Onesies (size 12 mo.-18mo.)
Socks
Clothes for Winter (size 12 mo - 18 mo)
Stroller
High Chair
Diapers (Huggies Step 3 but anything will do)
Bottles
Baby Food - 2nd step

Any large items (high chair, stroller, etc.) please contact Teresa first so as not to duplicate.

Why I Teach Sunday School

Judy Church called the other day with a request. She said she was simply asking me and others to put down in our own words why Sunday School can be extremely rewarding for both young and old alike and why some of us have taught Sunday School for so many years (in my case a half century). I told her I would try!

As for the young, I can remember that Sunday School was not an option in our home. On every Sunday morning, one was expected to be in Sunday School and church. Our parents didn't send us; they took us. In short, Sunday morning's schedule, one might say, was "pre-ordained". After nearly three score years and ten, I still remember with great kindness those who taught us the great stories of the Bible.

My sense is however, that as we grow older many of us are eager to escape Sunday School (much as many parents are glad to say goodbye to the PTA). The fact is that we have not outgrown Sunday School as a part of the ageing process. It is still there and I believe we are missing a great deal if we are not a part of that experience. After all, it can be fun and rewarding to apply the great lessons contained in the Bible to today's world and to feel the sense of brotherhood that comes as we discuss, argue about, and sometimes reach consensus concerning some of the great issues of our day. I invite you to try it; you just might like it! And I might add, selfishly, I'd like to have you "try it" with the Harmony Class this coming Sunday morning. Rich or poor, reasonably young or fairly old, single or married, you will get a warm welcome from the fascinating people who make up this class.

Why do I still teach after so many years? Because I believe that Sunday School can be a unique experience for all ages. **The eternal lessons of the Bible take us back to the very dawn of civilization and yet remain as new as the headlines in this morning's paper.** These great truths must not be permitted to die with our generation!

Jack Weicker

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
September 7	200	$3,523.88	$7,602.33
Year-to-date	173	$126,859.68	$117,330.32

30 people attended the parent-youth gathering Sunday evening. We spent some time getting acquainted (How many people **can** Andy hold on his lap?) and planning the "ultimate"party (You want to go where?)

Then we enjoyed great stuffed baked potatoes (made to order). Plans for the coming weeks include times for fun, fellowship and service. We meet from 5-7 pm most Sundays and share a meal, then time together. Come, join the fun!

Coming events:

September

21 5-7 pm - games/party planning

28 5-7 pm -Shower/painting Following the "Sock Hop" stay for the Blessing Shower for Julia or take time to paint "our room".

October

5 5-7 pm talk about work trip/paint

12 CROP WALK 1-? Birthday celebration following

19 5-7 pm plan/paint/work

26 Tailgate party (watch for

WHAT: ANNUAL CROP WALK
WHERE: Franke Park
WHEN:October 12, 1997
Registration 1:30-2:00p.m.
Walk begins @2:00p.m.
WHY: Stop World Hunger
Sponsored by Church World Service

Church World Service is a ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a partner through that Council and through local ecumenical programs. The money raised helps to support local food banks also. Last year in Indiana there were 49 walks which included 8,230 participants from 746 groups. The average amount raised per walker in the region was $54.05.

Please consider joining the team from First Christian Church. There will be 2 walks. One 4 mile route and one 2 mile route which is handicap accessible. Strollers are welcome. No skateboards or roller blades will be permitted for liability reasons.

The Youth Group will be walking again this year so if you don't walk , please show your support by giving a pledge.

Contact Donna McEvoy at 424-2818 or the church office to signup and receive your pledge sheets.

Let's make this year's Crop Walk a HUGE success!

Make a Joyful Noise!

Do you sing in the shower or how about in your car when stuck in traffic? Perhaps God is speaking to you. Perhaps He is saying, "Time to let the world in on this hidden gift of yours!" Now's your chance! The music ministries of First Christian are gearing up for another glorious year. **Carillon** will be rehearsing **Thursdays at 5:30** and **Choir** will be rehearsing **Saturdays at 1:00 p.m.**

We will also be having a new experience in the form of a **CHOIR RETREAT** on September 19-20 at the church. It will be an opportunity to jump start the choir this year with time for fellowship, food, fun and fine tuning of our voices and hearts. We will have a special guest Clinician for the Friday evening session!

If you have any desire - be it ever so humble or slight, do not resist. Come and check it out.

CARILLON - THURSDAYS 5:30

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know..... there are at least 18 active youth in our youth group plus 3 adult leaders. We provide a meal at <u>every</u> meeting. If you would like to help feed them, please call Donna McEvoy-Heimann 424-2818 or Anne Moll 482-7519 to schedule a time! Thanks.

Did you know..... there will be a Harvest dinner on November 23, 1997? It will be a "pitch-in". More information will follow later.

Did you know..... that Elinor & Kennthe Place donated the planter to replace the broken one by the south door?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

September dates for Choir:

September 19 - **Choir retreat,** 6:30-9 pm

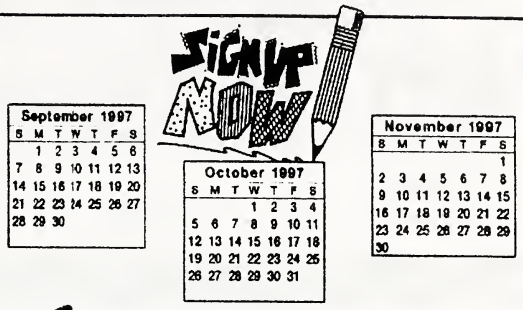
September 20 - **Choir retreat,** 9-12 am

September 21 - Chancel Choir sings, 7:45 am

CHOIR - SATURDAYS 1:00

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Guest Speaker, Ken Adkins
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
Chancel Choir singing
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship grades 3-5
5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Group
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg
& Jenny Baitz
9902 Sawtooth Ct.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
5:00 p.m. Rehearsal
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
5:30 p.m. Stabler-Collins Wedding
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship
2:00-5:00 p.m. Sock Hop
5:00-7:00 p.m."Blessings Shower"



In order to better organize our scheduling, a number of monthly calendars have been posted on the bulletin board outside the office. We will try to keep these up to date with the information that comes to the office (such as weddings and outside activities) so that your group or committee will know what is going on and when, then plan accordingly. We would appreciate it if you would add your plans to the calendar as soon as you know them so that we,or some other group, don't inadvertently schedule something that would conflict with your plans. If you would like to schedule something for a month which is not up yet, please let Dianne know and she will make up the calendar for that month. Thank you for your cooperation!

There is a need for additional people for the Prayer chain. If you are interested, please contact Evelyn Yeoman. Her number is: 489-2349.

SERVING SEPTEMBER 21

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Cron, B.Crouse

10:45 a.m. B. Widmer, C. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m.

M. Mullen, J. Ott, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. Mcdougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION SEPTEMBER 21

J. Arnold, L. Stover, Lori Vandergriff.

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER 17-OCTOBER 1

George Cole(18), Ginny Johnson(19), Mary Navachcoff(19), Richard Crain(19), Klark Kerley(20), Rosalie Hall(20), Brian Prechtl(22), Lynn Medlin(22), Anita Ellis(23), Robert Petty(24), Steve Vachon(25), Jenny Harter(25), Dorothy Overmeyer(26), Christi Deck(28), Ralph Richard(29), John Briggs(29), Lorrie Markley(29)

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Ft. Wayne, IN
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

SEPTEMBER 24, 1997 Volume 54, No. 31

THE SEARCH CONTINUES

One thing the committee has learned is just how much work and time is involved in getting basic information together. Unfortunatly, before we call a new pastor we must develop an understanding of just who we are! Boy! We are unique and surprisingly diverse! We are just about finished with this preliminary step.

The next step is to meet with you, the congregation, to get your hopes, satisfactions, and concerns about the church and what you want in our new pastor. Details on this will be announced soon.

We solicit your patience and understanding. For now, we ask you to pray for us! More later!

In Christian Love,
Bill Franklin for
the Search Committee

Workday at Camp Barbee

Fall workday at Barbee will be **Saturday, October 4, 9am-3pm .** We have some painting to do. We will also be re-roofing one of the cabins. A tree needs to come down at the beach and picnic tables put away. (See the Indiana Christian for more specifics.)

Bring your own tools, ladders, saws, etc., if possible. Snack and lunch will be served. Please call 219/834-4190 with reservations for lunch, by Wednesday, October 1.
We need your help!

Herb & Sharon

Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have a long tradition of Special Day Offerings. The purpose of the special offerings is not limited to just raising more funds for a particular cause. In addition to funding programs, the special day offerings provide a wonderful occasion for learning about our participation in the ministry/mission of our Lord.

This Sunday, September 28, is Reconciliation Sunday. I was serving as a District Minister in Missouri when the Reconciliation Program was born. In the midst of much civil and social unrest, our church decided to address some pressing and painful issues. I am proud to be a part of a church that had the courage to step forward and take some specific actions to alleviate human need and build bridges of understanding between people.

But, reconciliation is really so much more than a "church program." It is rooted in a strong biblical and theological understanding of what God has already done in Christ (reconciled us to himself) and what Christ expects of us, his followers (entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to us.) I encourage you to read II Corinthians 5:16-21 in preparation for worship on September 28. I will be preaching on the theme "The Roots and Fruits of Reconciliation." I look forward to greeting you as we gather for the wor ship of God !

Shalom,

Bill

THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 we had five first visitors with us in wor ship: Tricia Bell, Horace Sweat & Sara Hombach-Price, Terry Loop, and Andrew Ellis. Look for them again this coming week. Get to know them and what they like. Maybe they'd like to join you in one of the groups you enjoy here at First Christian.

Hey Everybody-- LET'S GO to the HOP!

Hey all you gals & guys
Here's a few words to the wise.
Stroll on in Sunday September 28, 2-5
Let's see **You** Twist & Shout & Hand Jive.
That's right - DressUp - Come - Dance
& have a ball
That's what it's about after all!

DON'T FORGET
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
2-5

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

D.M.A PLANS

OCTOBER 7th the D.M.A. will be lunching at Noon.at the Window Garden Restaurant. Following a delightful repast they will be continuing on to the Main Post Office! Gather up all those questions you always wanted to ask for the tour that begins promptly at 1:15p.m. The car pool will leave from the church at 11:15 sharp! (Special Post Office parking information will be in the next Tidings.)

"BLESSING SHOWER"

For Julia
Sunday, September 28th
5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Youth of First Christian Church are hosting a "Blessing Shower" for Julia (Charlie and Teresa Hatten's foster child.) Julia will be returning to her mother in early October. Since she has been such an integral part of our congregation, we would like to show our love and support. **Everyone is invited.**

ITEMS JULIA NEEDS:

Crib Sheets
Blanket
Undershirts/Onesies (size 12 mo.-18mo.)
Socks
Clothes for Winter (size 12 mo - 18 mo)
Stroller
High Chair
Diapers (Huggies Step 3 but anything will do)
Bottles
Baby Food - 2nd step

Any large items (high chair, stroller, etc.) please contact Teresa first so as not to duplicate.

30 people attended the parent-youth gathering Sunday evening. We spent some time getting acquainted (How many people **can** Andy hold on his lap?) and planning the "ultimate"party (You want to go where?)

Then we enjoyed great stuffed baked potatoes (made to order). Plans for the coming weeks include times for fun, fellowship and service. We meet from 5-7 pm most Sundays and share a meal, then time together. Come, join the fun!

Coming events:

September

28 5-7 pm -Shower/painting
Following the "Sock Hop" stay for the Blessing Shower for Julia or take time to paint "our room".

October

5 5-7 pm - talk about work trip & paint

12 CROP WALK 1p.m.-?p.m.
Birthday celebration following

19 5-7 pm plan/paint/work

26 Tailgate party (watch for news)

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WHERE: Franke Park
WHEN:October 12, 1997
Registration 1:30-2:00p.m.
Walk begins @2:00p.m.
WHY: Stop World Hunger
Sponsored by Church World Service

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Please consider joining the team from First Christian Church. There will be 2 walks. One 4 mile route and one 2 mile route which is handicap accessible. Strollers are welcome. No skateboards or roller blades will be permitted for liability reasons.

The Youth Group will be walking again this year so if you don't walk , please show your support by giving a pledge.

Contact Donna McEvoy at 424-2818 or the church office to signup and receive your pledge sheets.

Let's make this year's Crop Walk a HUGE success!

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Covington Manor Nursing Center, 5700 Wilkie Dr. 46804
Lucille Branstrator

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Velma Hechler, Room 116

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 201

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Retirement Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 201W

AT HOME:

Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Donald & Sarah Smith, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E421 46816
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

"Finding A Rainbow Through Dark Glasses"

An Alzheimer's Workshop

SCHEDULE

8:30 -9:00 - Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 -9:10 - Welcome

9:10 -10:30 - Jane Stansell, RN, MSN
"Innovations In Adult Day Services."

10:30 -10:45 - Break

10:45 -12:00 - Susan Cecil, MSW C.S.W. "Special Care Units: Pro's and Con's; What Makes Them Special"

12:00 -1:00 - Lunch / Exhibits

1:00 -2:15 - Lou Ann Binkley, RN,C - "Keys That Make A Difference: Savoring Colors In A Black And White Life"

2:15 -2:30 - Break

2:30 -3:30 - Mark Potuck - "To Laugh Or Not To Laugh....There Is No Question!"

3:30 -4:00 - Informal Networking

General Information:

Date: October 14, 1997

Location: Grand Wayne Center
Exhibition Hall
120 W. Jefferson Blvd. Ft. Wayne, IN. 46802

Parking: Parking available for a fee in Civic Center Parking lot.

Exhibits: There will be an opportunity to visit exhibitor tables offering pertinent and educational information.

Registration fee: $15.00 - Family Caregiver
$20.00 - Professional

Individual registration fee includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch.

For more information Contact.....Sharon - 458-2223

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Registration Due by October [illegible], 1997

☐ Family Caregiver $15.00 ☐ Professional

Make checks payable to: Ft. Wayne Alzheimer's Support Group

Mail to: Ft. Wayne Alzheimer's Support Group, 301 South Wayne, Box 4 Ft. Wayne, IN. 46807

Joys & Concerns

Brenda Kelly was able to be with us in Worship Sunday. We are very happy to see her doing so well.

Bill Crouse is under new medication & appears to be doing well.

Pauline Auer had surgery Friday morning (9-18) at Parkview. She expects to be at home this week. Pray for her quick recovery.

Ruth Plummer is having tests this week. Please remember her in your prayers.

Ruth Truesdell & Dorothy Green were in the hospital this past week to regulate their medication.

Bill Harzler has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please keep him & Mary Lou in your prayers.

In our thoughts & prayers

Why I COME TO Sunday School

For the last 5 to 6 years I have taught the children . I have gained knowledge and enjoyment but I felt it was time for me to be a part of Sunday School at a different level. For now, to continue gaining knowledge and figuring out how to apply that in a different way is what I need. That doesn't mean that I will never work with teaching the little ones again (I feel that is real important). Right now
I need to grow too!

Laura McFarland

I come to Sunday school to see my friends and our class has interesting discussions.

Annonymous

Why I TEACH Sunday School

Sunday School is an important activity where our faith can be explored and expanded in friendship and fellowship. As a teacher I grow in faith from knowing the faith of others.

Roger Moll

Don't Shoot the Horse

For over 75 years our annual financial campaigns have been a method of choice for funding congregational ministries. "Once-a-Year Campaigns" are no longer reaching the mission potential of the church nor the spiritual need of our congregation. We need to rediscover the biblical **vision** of Stewardship in all seasons. Our **vision** will become our **mission.**

Our stewardship (financial) drive will begin in October of this year and culminate on November 23 at the time we celebrate our 'Harvest dinner." We propose to use the same method as last year where we aimed to fill the "gas cans" for our "500" "mile" (member) ministry. Each "driver" will be provided "gas cans" with the names of each "crew member" in his or her territory. We will be contacting some of you that may wish to help.

George Bruckman

Stewardship Chairman

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know.....Ruth Truesdell has a new address? 1717 Maplecrest Rd., Apt 342 46815.

Did you know....that Polly Quinn won a second place ribbon at the City Wide Plant Show for her carrot which she grew in her backyard?

Did you know.....that Dawn Pierce, Krystal & Lindsey have a new phone # 458-9102?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

NUT ORDERS DUE BY THIS WEEKEND

Pecans, Almonds, etc. are great for pies, candy, eating, and gift giving so get your orders in. To assure delivery before the holidays, orders must be placed NOW. If interested, please call the church office (744-3239) or Rosemary Krull (after 2:30 p.m.) (432-6181) and state how many pounds you want.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
September 14	191	$3,523.88	$3,649.78
Year-to-date	174	$130,383.56	$120,980.10

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
5:00 p.m. Rehearsal
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Stabler-Collins Wedding
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Welcome to Worship
Coffee Fellowship
2:00-5:00 p.m. Sock Hop
5:00-7:00 p.m."Blessings Shower"
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1
6:00 p.m. Young Parents Class (Parlor)
7:00 p.m. Walk to Bethlehem
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
6:00 P.M. Sojourners (Parlor)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
9:00 a.m. Finance Meeting
9:00-3:00 p.m. Cleanup Day at Camp Barbee
Neighborhood sale of tickets for "Home Tour" in parking lot

We are planning our annual fall clean-up on **Saturday & Sunday October 11 & 12.** We want to get the church grounds looking top-notch. The hours planned for the days are:
8 am to 12 pm on Saturday and directly after second service on Sunday, so bring a change of clothes and a sack lunch.

We plan to trim bushes, pull weeds, straighten leaning trees and give the grounds a general cleaning up. We hope that some of you will volunteer to help on one or both of the clean-up days. Please bring along any tools that might help out.

If you can help out, please let Mike McFarland know. His phone number is 436-5839.

SERVING SEPTEMBER 28

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier, K. Ohneck

10:45 a.m. J. Mey, S. Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, J. Baitz, D. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G. Cole, C. Deck, L. McFarland, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION SEPTEMBER 28 & OCTOBER 5

M. Crouse, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Eunice Conrad & Sally Rudy

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 8

Robert Petty(24), Anna Taylor(2), Estel Vandergriff(2), Bruce Stone(3), Jamie Bushey(4), Kathlyn Banet(4), Jean McGrew(5), Deb Lester-Webb(6), Earl Plummer(6),Betty Maksl(7), Eileen Klepfer(8)

Coffee Fellowship

Beginning this Sunday we will be having a Coffee/Fellowship Hour following second service. This is a time for you to come to know more people and many people better. Take the time this Sunday for a little time getting to know the "family" better.

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Tidings

OCTOBER 1, 1997 Volume 54, No. 31

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN START YOUR ENGINES"
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE
THE FIRST CHRISTIAN 500

Like the fuel that moves an Indy car, our pledges are the fuel that drives the ongoing programs and ministries of First Christian Church.

Over the next month our congregation will be prayerfully considering what we can offer as pledges for 1998 as we seek to support the church and make a witness for God to this community and our world.

We urge you to examine your hearts, minds and spirits as you participate in the race of life where God can be the winner.

We hope you will focus your thoughts on this as we move towards **RACE DAY - OCTOBER 19** when pledges will begin to be received.

Watch you mail next week for a letter that will explain the way we'll receive our pledges.

Rachel Re-group

The Rachel Group will resume meetings on the third Tuesday morning,, **October 21st at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Study of the women of the Bible will be enhanced by the new CWF Study Book. All interested women are invited to attend this **special planning session.** Questions may be referred to Mildred Hutchinson 745-1944.

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday on the church calendar. There was a time when this special day seemed very important in the life of the church. In more recent times it barely makes it on the calendar of special worship opportunities. A noted Methodist leader suggested that "World Communion Sunday was always a bit presumptuous since, for over 80% of the world's Christians every Sunday is World Communion Sunday, and there seems to be little need to flaunt our deviation."

I strongly disagree with this state ment. Perhaps my Disciple roots are showing....or perhaps my age is a factor in my reaction, but I still believe there is a place for the celebration of World Communion Sunday. This day does not flaunt our deviancies. Rather, it celebrates our oneness in Christ.

I will be speaking on the theme "It's A Small World After All" as we gather for worship this Sunday. I hope each member of First Christian will make a special effort to keep the appointment which they have with the Lord, gather at the table in response to his invitation and celebrate with Christians around the world the majestic love of God as revealed in the gift of

Jesus Christ our Lord. I look forward to greeting you this Sunday!

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

FIRST CHRISTIAN CLEANS UP

at Camp Barbee This Saturday!

FALL WORKDAY at Barbee will be **Saturday, October 4, 9am-3pm .** We have some painting to do. We will also be re-roofing one of the cabins. A tree needs to come down at the beach and picnic tables put away. (See the Indiana Christian for more specifics.)

Bring your own tools, ladders, saws, etc., if possible. Snack and lunch will be served. Please call 219/834-4190 with reservations for lunch, by Wednesday, October 1. We need your help!

Herb & Sharon

at Church Next Weekend

We are planning our ANNUAL **FALL CLEAN-UP on Saturday & Sunday October 11 & 12.** We want to get the church grounds looking top-notch. The hours planned for the days are:

8 am to 12 pm on Saturday and directly after second service on Sunday, so bring a change of clothes and a sack lunch.

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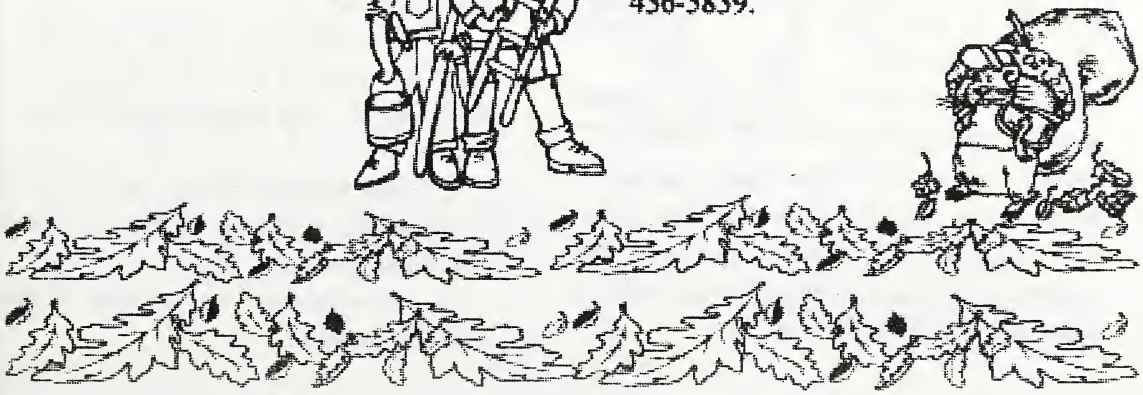


Adventure Club

Thursday afternoons at First Christian Church are filled with the sounds of children learning thanks to a Reconciliation Grant from The Christian Church in Indiana. Last Thursday, 15 students came to The Adventure Club for one-on-one reading assistance and peacemaking activities. Sixteen people from FCC tutored, taught or provided child care for the volunteers' children along with 4 high school students from the Bishop Luers Key Club. One Key Club member remarked at what a wonderful picture it was to see all of the grandparent and great-grandparent-type people helping young children learn. We expect that soon 30 children will participate weekly. Several more Key Club members also want to help. Once a month the parents of the children participating in The Adventure Club will be invited to share a meal and to learn ways that they can encourage FCC. We are developing relationships with the neighborhood children and their families and with the students from Bishop Luers. We are truly a beacon of god's light on the South Side. This is just one example of the way that the Reconciliation Offering is helping to "build bridges of understanding between people."

WHAT: ANNUAL CROP WALK
WHERE: Franke Park
WHEN:October 12, 1997
Registration 1:30-2:00p.m.
Walk begins @2:00p.m.
WHY: Stop World Hunger
Sponsored by Church World Service

Church World Service is a ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a partner through that Council and through local ecumenical programs. The money raised helps to support local food banks also. Last year in Indiana there were 49 walks which included 8,230 participants from 746 groups. The average amount raised per walker in the region was $54.05.

Please consider joining the team from First Christian Church. There will be 2 walks. One 4 mile route and one 2 mile route which is handicap accessible. Strollers are welcome. No skateboards or roller blades will be permitted for liability reasons.

The Youth Group will be walking again this year so if you don't walk , please show your support by giving a pledge.

Contact Donna McEvoy at 424-2818 or the church office to signup and receive your pledge sheets.

Let's make this year's Crop Walk a HUGE success!

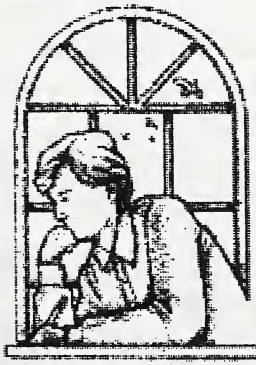
Joys & Concerns

Remember **Pauline Auer** as she recovers at home from her surgery 9/18.

Ruth Plummer continues to have tests taken as they seek information about the state of her heart. Please keep her in your prayers.

Ruth Truesdell was in the hospital again this past week to regulate her medication.

Bill Harzler has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray for him & Mary Lou.



In our thoughts & prayers

Why I COME TO Sunday School

There is a song we used to sing saying "I need Thee Every Hour". I come to Sunday School because I need to.

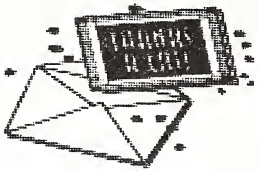
1. I need to be reminded of what God;s promises are and what he expects of me.
2. I need to know other people believe these promises.
3. I need the support and encouragement of friends.
4. I need to know others are struggling to live in God's way as I am.

Lois Finkhousen

Why I TEACH Sunday School

I teach because I like to. I like the give and take of a group of friends getting together in Sunday School with a biblical text, studying it, and sharing what it means. Other Christians keep me alive to God's Word. As we study together what was written in the past, we get insights into the meaning for us here and now.

Eunice Conrad
Gospel Seekers Class



Many, many, thanks to the Youth of First Christian Church, their sponsors and advisors and to all who showered Julia with their gifts and blessings. Julia has experienced God's presence through the loving kindness of God's people here at First Christian Church. She has truly been blessed.

Charlie & Teresa

D.M.A. PLANS

OCTOBER 7th the D.M.A. will be lunching at Noon at the Window Garden Restaurant. Following a delightful repast they will be continuing on to the Main Post Office! Gather up all those questions you always wanted to ask for the tour that begins promptly at 1:15p.m. The car pool will leave from the church at 11:15 sharp! (Special Post Office parking information will be in the next Tidings.)

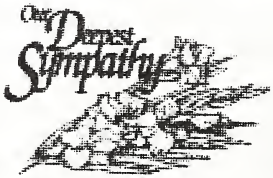
DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know.... that Stephanie Stabler and Sam Collins were joined in Matrimony this past Saturday (27)in our Sanctuary?

Did you know.... that First Christian hosted Bishop Luers' Senior Spiritual Re treat this Wednesday and Thursday?

Did you know.... that 30-35 people had a great time at the Sock Hop this past Sunday? If you weren't one of them you missed a fun time!

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church



Our sympathy goes out to Sarah Smith on the death of her husband Don Smith on Friday, September 26. Funeral Services were held by Pastors Riggs & Bruckman on Tuesday, September 30th. Don had been a member of First Christian since 1955.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	75		
September 21	158	$3,523.88	$1,451.88
Year-to-date	173	$133,907.44	$122,431.91

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
6:00 P.M. Sojourners (Parlor)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
9:00 a.m. Finance Meeting
9:00-3:00 p.m. Cleanup Day at Camp Barbee
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & Chamber Singers rehearsal
"Home Tour" sales in parking lot
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5
7:45 a.m. Chamber Singers sing
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
5-7:00 p.m. Youth Group
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz
TUESDAY OCTOBER 7
12:00 noon D.M.A.
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8
2:00 p.m. CWF (Board Room)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
8-12noon Yard Clean-up Day

TAILGATE TRICK OR TREAT TIME

Want to have a great time of fun and food and fellowship? There's a Sunday evening on October 26 when you can do just that at First Christian Church.

We'll gather in the fellowship hall for sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, cupcakes, and cider (hot & cold). A free-will offering will be taken. There will be games for children coordinated by our youth.

At 6:00 p.m. on the parking lot, adults will open their trunks and sit out there handing out trick-or-treats to our children as they go in costume from car to car.

Kids: Come in costume.
Adults: Prizes for best costume and best decorated trunk.
Adults: Be prepared with treats for 75-100 children.

October Activities

5 5-7 pm - talk about work trip & paint
12 CROP WALK 1p.m.-?p.m.
No Youth Group following
19 5-7 pm plan/paint/work
26 Tailgate party (see above)

SERVING OCTOBER 5

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. E. Conrad &G. Bruckman
10:45 a.m. J. McGrew & C. Hatten

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schurcht.
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Riecke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth.

COMMUNION PREPARATION OCTOBER 5

M. Crouse, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Debra Fulkerth & Orlan Holmes

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 1-18

Anna Taylor(2), Estel Vandergriff(2), Bruce Stone(3), Jamie Bushey(4), Kathlyn Banet(4), Jean McGrew(5), Deb Lester-Webb(6), Earl Plummer(6),Betty Maksl(7), Eileen Klepfer(8), Bill Johnson(9), Kathy Graham(10), Mike Chapin(10), Doris Koehlinger(11), Pheung Phonsoupha(11), Anne Scott(12), Charles W. Wrisk-93(13),Jim Bramel(14), Dick Ashton(15), Edna Vaught(15), Herb Banet(17), Ruth Ogles(17), Charlie Byrket(18)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

OCTOBER 8, 1997 Volume 54, No. 32

Help Stop World and Local Hunger
Join the Annual Crop Walk

WHERE: Franke Park
WHEN: This Sunday! October 12, 1997
Registration 1:30-2:00p.m.
Walk begins @2:00p.m.
Sponsored by Church World Service

Church World Service is a ministry of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a partner through that Council and through local ecumenical programs. The money raised helps to support local food banks also. Last year in Indiana there were 49 walks which included 8,230 participants from 746 groups. The average amount raised per walker in the region was $54.05.

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The Youth Group will be walking again this year so if you don't walk , please show your support by giving a pledge.

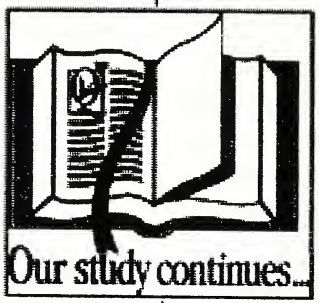
Contact Donna McEvoy at 424-2818 or the church office to signup and receive your pledge sheets.

Let's make this year's Crop Walk a HUGE success!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman

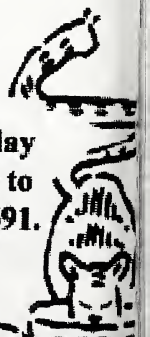
Why I COME TO Sunday School

As a child I probably didn't have a choice about whether or not I attended Sunday School on Sunday morning. It was something we did as a family active in our church and not a matter for debate, discussion or last minute decision. Truthfully, I don't remember much about those early years and my Christian education except for Vacation Bible School which was held for two weeks each summer. Children were picked up by a yellow bus and taken to my county school. That I remember ! When Ralph and I moved to Fort Wayne in the late 50's and joined First Christian Church, we were asked to teach a Jr. High school class on Sunday mornings or lead Chi Rho, junior high children, on Sunday evenings. We chose teaching on Sunday mornings. For the next thirteen years, as we taught, I learned more about the Bible than I had ever known as a "student". And one of the most important things I learned is that teachers learn more than students. Thank goodness, because I had a lot to learn. After a wise Christian Education pastor, Miriam Bixenman, saw the necessity for rotating us off as teachers, I began Bible study as a student again under the tutelage of Jack Wicker in the Harmony Class.



All of this is history of course. Why do I continue to come to Sunday School? Because there is still so much to learn. Knowing what is in the Bible is just the first step. Understanding what those ancient authors wrote and their message for me today is a life long process. The Bible is a source of comfort, encouragement and guidance and I need to know where to find those verses when I need them. Another aspect of a Sunday School class is the small group life that is formed when you get to know people over a number of years. I look forward to seeing the other class members and talking with them each week. The original small-group hour must surely be 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and occasionally we have donut holes!

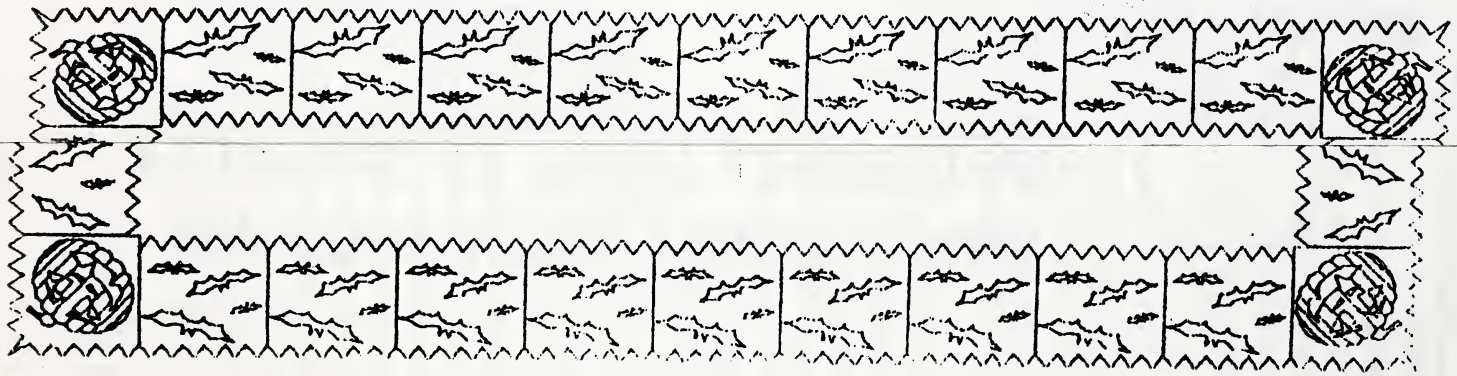
The Harmony Class is getting together at our home October 18, 1997 at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in a Sunday School class or would just like to check us out, call me at 447-5691.



something for everyone

Freewill Offering Taken

6 to 7 p.m. - Tailgate Trick or



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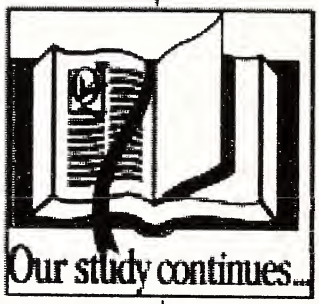

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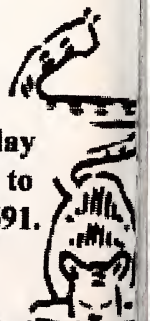


something for everyone

FOR THE FAMILY

By Diane Zehr

All families celebrate dressing up on Halloween, trick or treating and enjoying the activities of the day.

Many of us don't really know the origins of the day and when it was developed.

We have fun with ghost stories and white sheeted goblins run our streets that night from door to door.

Following is an explanation of Halloween that you can use with children to help them understand the differences between having Halloween fun and really believing in ghosts and goblins and the activity of evil spirits.

Halloween began before Jesus was born. People in most of the world believed in many gods. We believe that there is only one God.

The Celts were people who lived a long distance from the land where Jesus lived. They believed in many gods, and one was a god of death who sent evil spirits into animals to play terrible tricks on people all winter.

The Celts believed that by wearing scary masks before winter they would scare off the evil spirits or make the evil spirits think that they were one of them.

When the Christians came to that country they taught about Jesus and the one true God. They tried to make the people stop worshiping evil spirits by celebrating a day they called All Saints Day on November 1. They made this a day to remember all Christians who had lived before.

The Celts believed that those who were dead could hurt them. We don't believe that. We believe that God has power over everyone who is alive and dead and that God is with us always to help us.

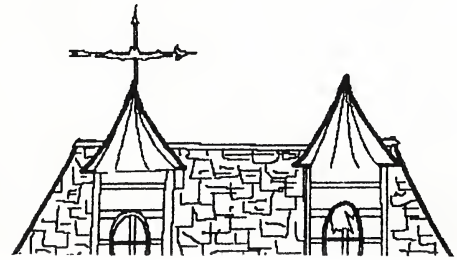
Halloween is like the dark side of a holiday. It is what people believed before they learned about Christ. All Saints Day is the light side. It is what we believe when we know about Christ.

We'll be celebrating All Saints Day the first Sunday of November.

Portions of this article were taken from How Do Our Children Grow? by Delin Halverson.

AN INVITATION FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4800 S. CALHOUN

PHONE: 744-3239



For the Fun (Pretend) Dress-up Part of Halloween

Join Us for the

Tailgate Trick or Treat Night

on Sunday, Oct. 26 - 5 to 7 p.m.

5 to 6 p.m. - Dinner and games for children

Why I TEACH Sunday School

I have been asked to explain why I enjoy, or continue to teach Sunday School. Actually, it all began when I was a child and can recall with fond memories a wonderful, warm, and loving lady who was my teacher in a boy's Sunday School program.

As I grew older, I became aware of what she had done for me in introducing me to the Bible and what importance it would come to play in my life. When I became a professional teacher, I decided I would like to share my knowledge and my learning with others. I began teaching young people in church, and was ultimately moved to the adult level. I have taught Bible lessons since graduating from college, and have sincerely believed that God gave me a talent and wanted me to use it. I truly enjoy sharing what I have learned about god and Jesus Christ with others.

In recent years I have been disappointed by the apparent loss of interest in the church school program. Perhaps some day people will be willing to listen to what the Lord has to say.

Glenn Miller

Joys & Concerns

Remember **Pauline Auer** as she recovers at home from her surgery 9/18.

Ruth Plummer is doing well as she recovers at home from her Pacemaker surgery.

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Bill Harzler has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please continue to pray for him & Mary Lou.

Beulah Timmons fell last week and is sore & moving slowly. Thank God she broke no bones!

Marge Mitchell is recovering at home after her cataract surgery at Lutheran Hospital on September 30th.

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

This year's Walk to Bethlehem is "off and running!" The initial meeting for those in charge was recently held at First Christian Church for the inspirational Christmastime special which will be held Friday and Saturday nights, December 12th & 13th. That's just two months away.

AN INVITATION FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 4800 S. CALHOUN PHONE: 744-3239

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5 to 6 p.m. - Dinner and games for children

Freewill Offering Taken

6 to 7 p.m. - Tailgate Trick or Treating

Awards given for the best trunk decorations and adult costumes

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Central Christian Dedicates Family Life Center

Central Christian Church at Huntington has invited us to attend their dedication services of the new Family Life Center. The dedication will take place immediately following the 10:30 A.M. service on October 19, 1997. There will be an OPEN HOUSE the same day from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ASSEMBLY

Central Christian Church, Huntington

Sunday, November 2, 1997

Northern Lights Assembly is the group of Disciple churches that provide a tie for all of us in North-East Indiana. Churches included in the area are from Marion East and North to the State line. This meeting will be from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. and include **music from our choir and bells** also a focus on many local and national mission projects. The registration will begin at 2:00 P.M. Please come and support our Choirs and renew acquaintances with other Disciple churches.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know....that congratulations are due to area marching bands on their performance in district competition? Both Homestead (Holly Falbe is a member) and Snider (Katie Moll is a member) earned a **1** rating which moves them on to the ISSMA Regional Competition on October 18th.

Did you know....that First Christian hosted Bishop Luers' Freshman and Sophomore Spiritual Retreats this Tuesday through Friday?

Did you know...(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	75		
September 28	149	$3,523.88	$2,631.70
Year-to-date	173	$13 7,431.32	$125,063.61

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:00-2:30 p.m. Bishop Luers' Sophomore Spiritual Retreat
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:00-2:00 p.m. Bishop Luers' Sophomore Spiritual Retreat

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:00-12:00 n. Yard Clean-up Day
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Finish Yard Clean-up
1:00-4:00 p.m. Crop Walk

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz

TUESDAY OCTOBER 14

9:00 a.m. Sewing Circle
6:30 p.m. Administrative Board
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting

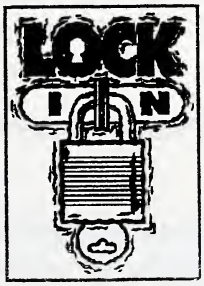
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

8:30-9:00 a.m. Sherwood to Petit Neighborhood Meeting .
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Harmony Class Get-together

The Youth Group is planning an Abandoned Haunted Church to be held in conjunction with the Tailgate Party on Oct. 26 at the church. This will be an effort to raise money for a work trip. Donations will be accepted. Anyone interested in helping us should call Lori Crouter at 456-0079 or Katie Moll at 482-7519.



YOUTH LOCK-IN

OCTOBER 25-26
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 A.M.

SERVING OCTOBER 12

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. A. Moll & J. Church
10:45 a.m. B. Franklin & D. Heimann

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, G. Brown
10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman.

COMMUNION PREPARATION OCTOBER 12 & 19

D. Keebortz, R. Wise, E. Yeoman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

None this week due to Clean-up Day

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 8-26

Eileen Klepfer(8), Bill Johnson(9), Kathy Graham(10), Mike Chapin(10), Doris Koehlinger(11), Pheung Phonsoupha(11), Anne Scott(12), Charles W. Wrisk-93(13),Jim Bramel(14), Dick Ashton(15), Edna Vaught(15), Herb Banet(17), Ruth Ogles(17), Charlie Byrket(18),Wilbur Snook(21), Leotha Jones(21), Bill Love(22), Don Pomeroy(23), Robin Evans(25), Tom Mathis(25), Steven Mullen(25)

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Tidings

OCTOBER 15, 1997 Volume 54, No. 33

TIME TO PRAY !

What is it that brings you to the Lord in prayer? Perhaps your most fervent times of prayer are when you are concerned for the health of a member of your family or a close friend. When you are faced with a difficult, life-changing decision to make and you don't know what to do, you yearn for God to give you direction. First Christian Church is facing an all important, spiritual, life-changing.decision in our search for a new senior pastor. As we begin a new century and a new millennium, the choices we make in regard to the goals and vision for our congregation are crucial.

The prayer vigils that have been held before Easter have been very rewarding and uplifting and it is felt that we need that kind of depth for our prayer life now. The chapel will be available for prayer during office hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and in the evenings when there are other groups in the church building. You may come as individuals or as a group. There will be a list of prayer requests, community concerns, a file box with the names of those who have been visiting on Sunday morning.

The early church prayed in "one accord." This means they were in agreement in prayer and in spite of their differences, they were focused in their praying. Can First Christian Church come together in prayer as we prepare for the future? Our future may depend on it.

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

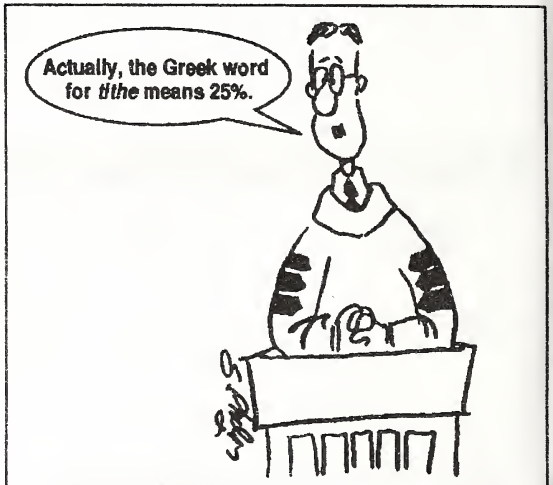
Last Sunday I read from II Corinthians as we prepare for our stewardship emphasis in the weeks ahead. Paul describes, with great joy and appreciation, the spirit of the Christians in Macedonia. They were poor, but when they heard of the needs of the Christians in the mother church at Jerusalem, they "begged and pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people in Judea."

This Sunday I will be preaching on the theme, "a Community of Trustees." I can think of no more powerful image of what it means to be a steward than this phrase. It defines both our relationship to one another (community) and our responsibility to God (trustee.) I encourage you to be present for the worship of God. Once we catch a vision of what Christ has called the church to be and accept our responsibility to be a trustee of God's gifts, surprising things happen in the life and mission of the church.

Be a part of the excitement! I look forward to greeting you at either the 8:15 or the 10:45 worship service this Sunday!

Shalom,

Pastor Bill



Dr. Sheldon takes advantage of his congregation's lack of knowledge of the Greek language.

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

This year's Walk to Bethlehem is "off and running!" The initial meeting for those in charge was recently held at First Christian Church for the inspirational Christmastime special which will be held Friday and Saturday nights, December 12th & 13th. That's just two months away.

Every member of the church can play a part in the production — from actors to production people and in-between.

Contact Diane Mory for your part!

George Cole

WHY GIVE?

There are levels of **GIVING** which reflect levels of living. The New Testament reminds us that God loves a **CHEERFUL** giver. The word is actually the one where we get our word "hilarious". When giving is done with that kind of **JOY** then it does reflect a certain high type of living.

Some giving is in response to **NEED**. Other giving is in support of a **CAUSE**. These show a disciple tuned into the work of Christ and living at a responsive level. The **TOKEN** gift, which is a gift that has no significant percentage in relation to the abundance possessed by that person, indicates a level of living that does not take seriously need, cause or God.

There are times when we are givers if urged to do so or if a crisis is proclaimed. Such giving is done out of **"MAYDAY NOT PAYDAY"**. Paul admonishes a regular, systematic and proportional gift be set aside each Lord's Day. Again levels of living with God are reflected in that kind of giving. These include in their level of living both **FAITH AND LOVE**.

Some live on a level where they **THANKFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE ABUNDANCE** and give out of that. Others take this even further and when there is no great material abundance give out of response to what Christ had done even to the level of **SACRIFICE**. There

GIVING CONTINUED

is large body of people who give simply to give to God. This for them is an act of **WORSHIP**. Perhaps this is the most ancient of all reasons for giving.

Jesus saw it as doing some earthly good while investing in things eternal. In the imagery of the New Testament it is not a debt we owe but a seed we sew. Tending the garden of God is a way of living that includes the giving act of sewing. I write these things that we each can look at our giving and the level of living that is also ours.

Rachel Re-group

The Rachel Group will resume meetings on the third Tuesday morning,, **October 21st at 9:30 a.m.** in the Parlor. Study of the women of the Bible will be enhanced by the new CWF Study Book. All interested women are invited to attend this **special planning session.** Questions may be referred to Mildred Hutchinson 745-1944.

Why I COME TO Sunday School

There are many reasons why I have been involved in Sunday School programs for the past 25 years as an adult, not to mention the years as a child. As a child Sunday School was a place for me to hear the stories of the Bible and the promises of God, absorbed literally without question. As I grew up and began to question the possibility of some of those stories I found Sunday School classes where I could discuss interpretation with others. Now I find that I want to balance my need to continue studying with my commitment to passing on faith to the children. Our church offers so many opportunities to be involved - from Sunday School classes to Bible School to Children in Worship to Small Group Bible studies. There is always something available to everyone.

Ann Moll

Central Christian Dedicates Family Life Center This Sunday

Central Christian Church at Huntington has invited us to attend their dedication services of the new Family Life Center. The dedication will take place immediately following the 10:30 A.M. service on October 19, 1997. There will be an OPEN HOUSE the same day from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ASSEMBLY

Central Christian Church, Huntington

Sunday, November 2, 1997

Northern Lights Assembly is the group of Disciple churches that provide a tie for all of us in North-East Indiana. Churches included in the area are from Marion East and North to the State line. This meeting will be from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. and include **music from our choir and bells** also a focus on many local and national mission projects. The registration will begin at 2:00 P.M. Please come and support our Choirs and renew acquaintances with other Disciple churches.

We Need

We are suggesting that each of us consider food donations to our food bank. We are supplied by the "Community Food Bank" however, there have been many times we find our stock is depleted. Especially required are staples that include a) macaroni & cheese, b) spaghetti, c) meat sauce, d) instant mashed potatoes, e) peanut butter, f) canned fruit.

Each Sunday you may wish to provide your "ticket" to church by placing your gift in the box at the entry doors.

Many people quench the Spirit by being down in the mouth rather than rejoicing, by planning rather than praying, by murmuring rather than giving thanks, and by worrying instead of trusting in him who is faithful.

Cameron Townsend, founder Wycliffe Bible Translators
©Leadership. Used by permission

Joys & Concerns

Several of the people on our concerns list are now on our joy list as their health improves.

Thanks to Mike McFarland and all the men who helped clean up and spruce up our church this past weekend.

Continue to lift **Bev Hendricks** in your prayers.

Sarah Smith has relocated to make her more comfortable. Her new room is C356.

Cherishing memories of a life well lived and confident of an eternal triumph achieved, we nevertheless sorrow at the death of Margaret Parks in Clearwater, Florida on October 12, 1997 and offer our sympathy and prayers to her daughter, **Carole Davis** and her granddaughter, **Brenda Proegler.**

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18
8:30-9:00 a.m. Sherwood to Petit Neigh borhood Meeting
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Harmony Class Get-together at Ralph & Judy Church's

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Group

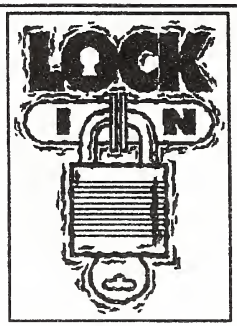
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20
7:00 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21
8:00-2:30 p.m.- Bishop Luers' Junior Spiritual Retreat
9:30 a.m. Rachel Group (in Library)
6:00 p.m. Parents Adventure Club

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22
8:00-2:30 p.m. Bishop Luers' Junior Spiritual Retreat

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players



YOUTH LOCK-IN
OCTOBER 25-26

7:00 P.M. - 9:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Tailgate Party

For a great time of fun and food and fellowship we'll be gathering in the fellowship hall for sloppy joes, hot dogs, chips, cupcakes, and cider (hot & cold). A free-will offering will be taken. There will be an "Abndoned Haunte d Church' for the children coordinated by our youth.

At 6:00 p.m. on the parking lot, adults will open their trunks and sit out there handing out trick-or-treats to our children as they go in costume from car to car. (Be prepared with treats for 75-100 children.)

Kids: Come in costume.
Adults: Prizes for best costume and best decorated trunk.

Abandoned Haunted Church

Planned by the Youth Group and held in conjunction with the Tailgate Party on Oct. 26 at the church. This will be an effort to raise money for a work trip. Donations will be accepted. Anyone interested in helping us should call Lori Crouter at 456-0079 or Katie Moll at 482-7519.

To All God's People
Who are in Union with Christ Jesus
May God our Father give you Peace and Grace
Be good enough to join with us
on Sunday, October 19, 1997
in celebrating the call and installation of
Diane and Jerry Zehr
as pastors of our congregation,
The Florence Christian Church
300 Main Street
Florence, Kentucky

Worship and installation 10:45 a.m.
Reception and social gathering 4-7 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know... **Charles Wrisk** celebrated his 93rd birthday on this Monday, October 13th?

Did you know... **Sara Smith**'s moved to room C356 at The Lutheran Home?

Did you know... **Glenn and Lola Miller** are now in room 203 at the Townehouse Health Center ?

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

"HE SAYS IT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO ADD A 15 PERCENT GRATUITY TO THEIR OFFERINGS."

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	73		
October 5	161	$3,523.88	$4,749.03
Year-to-date	172	$140,955.20	$129,812.64

SERVING OCTOBER 19

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Ohneck & K. Cron
10:45 a.m. C. McGrew & B. Widmer

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schurcht
10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, L. Heiman, G. Cole, C.Deck, L. McFarland, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION OCTOBER 19

D. Keebortz, R. Wise, E. Yeoman

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Bill & Joan Franklin

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 15-31

Dick Ashton(15), Edna Vaught(15), Herb Banet(17), Ruth Ogles(17), Charlie Byrket(18),Wilbur Snook(21), Leotha Jones(21), Bill Love(22), Don Pomeroy(23), Robin Evans(25), Tom Mathis(25), Steven Mullen(25), Charles Murray(28), Katie Moll(29), Deborah Rinker(29), Jeffrey Grier(30), Gary Falbe(31), Jim Shirley(31)

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MR MARK SNYDER
4709 SCHAPER DRIVE
FT WAYNE IN 46806

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

OCTOBER 22, 1997 Volume 54, No. 34

THE RACE IS ON AND WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING FOR THE FIRST LAP OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN 500

Sometime soon a gas can will make it's way to your doorstep for our annual fall stewardship campaign.

All you have to do is indicate on the card enclosed what you will be pledging for God's work at First Christian Church for 1998.

Then, we are asking that you deliver the can to the next family or person on your list. Maybe you'll meet a new friend!

When the can is delivered, give your driver (team leader) a call so he/she will know just where the can is.

We are hoping to wave the checkered flags on this campaign by Sunday, November 16 so let's keep the cans moving!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-5239

We Need

We are suggesting that each of us consider food donations to our food bank. We are supplied by the "Community Food Bank" however, there have been many times we find our stock is depleted. Especially required are staples that include a) macaroni & cheese, b) spaghetti, c) meat sauce, d) instant mashed potatoes, e) peanut butter, f) canned fruit.

Each Sunday you may wish to provide your "ticket" to church by placing your gift in the box at the entry doors.

Returned Members!

We were delighed to receive Ed and Sue Allen back into the family of First Christian Church. They transferred their membership from Hillside Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas. They were members here for many years before moving to Wichita. Welcome home, Ed and Sue!

Joys & Concerns

Kathlyn Banet had surgery last week. She is in Lutheran Hospital room 204. She is doing much better and would welcome company as well as cards..

Continue to lift **Bev Hendricks** in your prayers.

Eileen Klepfer had outpatient surgery Wednesday, Oct. 22. Remember her as she recouperates at home.

Five-year-old Cloe Cook will have surgery Thursday, October 23 at Riley Hospital. She would love to receive cards. Her address is:

Riley Hospital
702 Barnhill Dr.
Box # 1739
Indianapolis, IN 46202

DATES FOR THE NOVEMBER CALENDAR ARE DUE A.S.A.P.!

WEST CREIGHTON ANNUAL BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
9:30 A.M.-6:30 P.M.

SNACK BAR: 10:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup or Chili, Cake, Cider or Coffee

DINNER HOURS: 4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.
DINNERS: Beef & Noodles or Ham Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Delicious Salad Bar, Homemade Pie, Rolls, Coffee or Milk

TICKETS: Adults: $5:00
Children under 12: $2.50

BAZAAR: Beautiful Christmas items, Candy, Carmel Corn, Noodles, Baked Goods, Mince Meat, Apple Butter, This and That table and more

845 West Creighton Avenue
(corner of Miner & West Creighton)

Supervised Parking on Miner Street Lot

Prime Time Center
is adjacent to South Side High School
at the corner of
Calhoun Street and Oakdale Drive.

Refreshments will be served!

for more information, call 484-4551
This Community Center is here to serve you!

NORTHERN LIGHTS ASSEMBLY

Central Christian Church, Huntington

Sunday, November 2, 1997

Northern Lights Assembly is the group of Disciple churches that provide a tie for all of us in North-East Indiana. Churches included in the area are from Marion East and North to the State line. This meeting will be from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. and include **music from our choir and bells** also a focus on many local and national mission projects. The registration will begin at 2:00 P.M. Please come and support our Choirs and renew acquaintances with other Disciple churches.

The Fort Wayne Area Youth for Christ
would like to cordially invite you to the

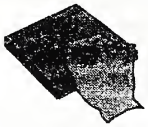
Prime Time Center
Open House

Tuesday, October 28, 1997
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
3701 South Calhoun Street

Program begins at 5:00 PM

Come Join the Celebration!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Youth set up for Haunted Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
← 5:00-7:00 p.m. Supper, Tailgate Party and Abandoned Haunted Church

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group at Greg & Jenny Baitz

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29
6:00 p.m. New Parent Class (Parlor)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

DMA
NOON, NOVEMBER 4TH

This is Veteran's Month, a perfect time for a "carry in" lunch in honor of all our veterans from the Civil War through Desert Storm. So all you DMA vets, wear your uniform (just kidding), bring a picture (if available), and a "war story" or two.

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

This year's **Walk to Bethlehem** will be held Friday and Saturday nights, **December 12th & 13th**. That's just two months away!

Every member of the church can play a part in the production — from actors to production people and in-between.

Contact Diane Mory for your part!

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck (461-2882)

Who Do You Call?

You may have questions regarding some of our activities or you may want to suggest or volunteer to provide assistance for an activity that is about to happen. At those times you may call the following chairpeople for additional information.

Search Committee	Bill Franklin
Christian Education	Judy Church
Evangelism	Ron Wise
Finance	Jim Bushy
Lay Leadership	Rosemary Krull
Fellowship	Laura McFarland
Outreach & Service	Donna Heimann
Personnel	Kathy Cron
Property	Mike McFarland
Stewardship	George Bruckman
Worship	Judy Mey
Deaconate	Eve Gorman
Elders	Eunice Conrad
Youth	Larry Brey

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know... Homestead's Marching Band will be competing in the RCA Dome Saturday, October 25 for State Championship? Congratulations to Homestead and to Snider for a great year!

Did you know... there are **NO** dishtowels in the kitchen?

Did you know... that Art and Marge Thomas have "flown south for the winter"? Their present address is:
2405 Studio Blvd.
Ruskin, FL 33570

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	66		
October 12	146	$3,523.88	$2,557.00
Year-to-date	172	$144,479.08	$132,369.64

SERVING OCTOBER 26

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier & J. Ohneck
10:45 a.m. G. Klepfer & J. Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Riecke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION OCTOBER 26 & NOVEMBER 2

M. Bier, J. Franklin, L. Heimann

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

J. Mey & C. Falbe, A. Moll & M. McDougle, G. Bruckman & O. McDougle, S. Hayes & D. Bohlen

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 15-NOVEMBER 8

Don Pomeroy(23), Robin Evans(25), Tom Mathis(25), Steven Mullen(25), Charles Murray(28), Katie Moll(29), Deborah Rinker(29), Jeffrey Grier(30), Gary Falbe(31), Jim Shirley(31), Coleen Wilcoxson(11/1), Sharon Eme(11/1), Judy Church(11/2), Jane Walsh(11/4), Ruth Stone(11/4), Martha Christy(11/5), John Phillips(11/5), Curt Miller(11/5), Anthony York(11/5), James Evans(11/7), Anna Lyons(11/7)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Ralph & Judy Church

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

OCTOBER 29, 1997 Volume 54, No. 35

NORTHERN LIGHTS ASSEMBLY

A "CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GIFTS OF MINISTRY"

Come and support our Choirs and renew acquaintances with other Disciple churches next Sunday at the Northern Lights Assembly. This group of Disciple churches provides a tie for all of us in North-East Indiana. Churches included in the area are from Marion East and North to the State line. The meeting will be from 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. and include **MUSIC FROM OUR CHOIR AND BELLS.** It will also focus on many local and national mission projects.

SCHEDULE

2-2:30 PM - Registration & Fellowship at entrance to Family Life Center

2:30-4 PM - Gifts of Ministry Presentation by area congregations (Displays of Mission Projects and Trips, Habitat for Humanity, Quilts, Outreach Banners, Books for Sale,...)
- Also (on stage) Puppet Show, Clown Ministries, Skits, Drama, Storytellers, Musical numbers...

4-5PM - Short Business Meeting & Worship will consist of special music by Choirs, Bell Choirs & the Orchestra, a short meditation on the theme, and Communion.

5:10-6PM - Dinner(free will offering) **and Closing Remarks**

This Sunday at
Central Christian Church, Huntington

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

My appreciation for the spirit and commitment of members of First Christain Church continues to grow. I have always felt that the faith which we celebrate through worship on Sunday needs to be translated into service to our Lord in the day to day activities of our life. Many of our members are involved with people who have special needs. They take seriously our Lord's invitation to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, visit those who are sick and in prison, etc., knowing that as they serve the least of these in our society they are serving their Lord as well.

For the past three Sundays I have focused my preaching on stewardship themes. We are now at the point where each of us will make our decision about our financial support to Christ's mission as it is lived out through our church. I have suggested, in a variety of ways, that ultimately our stewardship response is not so much a matter of finance as it is of faith. I hope you will measure your ability to give, based on God's gifts to you and will respond accordingly as you make your commitment to God.

This Sunday I will be preaching on the theme "Celebrate the Promise." Read Matthew 18:15-20 as you prepare for worship. We will consider the promise Jesus made when he said "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." We will claim and celebrate this promise as we explore the perils of isolation and the promise of community.

I look forward to greeting you in worship this Sunday!

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

There will be a Memorial Service in the Sanctuary this Saturday for William Hartzler who went to be with the Lord early last week. William and his wife Mary Lou (former FCC member) have lived in Venice, Florida for the past ten years but still have many friends and relatives in our area.

The Service will begin at 11:00 AM with Pastor Bill Riggs leading in worship. A luncheon will be served following.

WHY FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEEDS A PRAYER CENTER

Terry Teykl, in his book "Making Room to Pray," gives 10 reasons why your church needs a prayer center. They are as follows:

1. A prayer center makes it possible to schedule prayer in a systematic manner.
2. A prayer center provides a place to promote agreement in prayer.
3. A prayer center is a great place to register the deeds of God in the life of the church.
4. Prayer centers promote ownership of the church vision to win the city to Christ.
5. Prayer centers give an advantage to evangelism by the image they cast in the community.
6. Prayer rooms provide a place for people to practice prayer.
7. Making room to pray can have an inclusive impact on your church.
8. A prayer room is a place where people can be quiet and hear the voice of God.
9. A prayer center provides a place for prolonged periods of prayer.
10. Having a room with an alter or kneeling rail provides a place where people can come or be taken to make a commitment to Jesus Christ.

What reasons do you think apply for First Christian Church? While thinking about a prayer center, let's pray for Sue Brey, Eunice Conrad, Marlene Crouse, Rick Evans, Bill Franklin, Eve Gorman, Dick Mey, Katy Moll and Jack Weicker. They comprise our Search Committee for a new senior pastor.

Who Do You Call?

You may have questions regarding some of our activities or you may want to suggest or volunteer to provide assistance for an activity that is about to happen. At those times you may call the following chairpeople for additional information.

Search Committee	Bill Franklin
Christian Education	Judy Church
Evangelism	Ron Wise
Finance	Jim Bushy
Lay Leadership	Rosemary Krull
Fellowship	Laura McFarland
	Caren Wise
Outreach & Service	Donna Heimann
Personnel	Kathy Cron
Property	Mike McFarland
Stewardship	George Bruckman
Worship	Judy Mey
Deaconate	Eve Gorman
Elders	Eunice Conrad
Youth	Larry Brey

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 23

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Harvest Dinner Sunday, November 23. Arraignments will be similar to last year. Fellowship Committee will provide the rolls, drinks and table service. **Those whose names begin with A-M are invited to bring a main dish. Those whose names begin with letters N-Z can bring vegetable, salad or dessert.** What a good time to celebrate our bountiful blessings with our church family!

AWARDS FOR TRICK OR TREAT PARTY

The talent of our church family was apparent at the Trick or Treat Party(Tailgate Party before the yucky weather arrived) Sunday night. Those who drew especial attention for their creativity received awards. Be sure to commend these people when you see them!

MOST ORIGINAL FEMALE - Teresa Hatten
MOST ORIGINAL COUPLE - The Prechtls
GOOFIEST FEMALE - Sally Rudy
BEST FEMALE REPRESENTING
A CARTOON CHARACTER - Eunice Conrad
"Cat in the Hat"
MOST ORIGINAL PEW - The Prechtls
SCARIEST PEW - Dick Mey

DMA
NOON, NOVEMBER 4TH

This is Veteran's Month, a perfect time for a "carry in" lunch in honor of all our veterans from the Civil War through Desert Storm. So all you DMA vets, wear your uniform (just kidding), bring a picture (if available), and a "war story" or two.

We are suggesting that each of us consider food donations to our food bank. We are supplied by the "Community Food Bank" however, there have been many times we find our stock is depleted. **Especially required right now are: powdered milk, canned fruit, laundry soap, noodles, instant potatoes, peanut butter,cereal, and canned vegetables.**

Each Sunday you may wish to provide your "ticket" to church by placing your gift in the box at the entry doors.

Joys & Concerns

Continue to lift **Bev Hendricks, Kathlyn Banet** and **Eileen Klepfer** in your prayers.

Five-year-old **Cloe Cook** is still in Riley Hospital following her surgery last week. Keep her in your prayers and keep sending those cards. Her address is:

Riley Hospital, 702 Barnhill Dr.
Box # 1739, Indianapolis, IN
46202

Eric Morey is still in the hospital recovering from a bullet wound. Please pray for him. The pain has been great. He is in room 486 of St. Joseph Hospital.

Orda Glentzer had surgery Tuesday, Oct. 28. She is probably home now recovering.

Beulah Timmons has moved. Pray that she may make the adjustment easily. (See Did You Know)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Finance Meeting

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
11:00-2:00 p.m. Hartzler Memorial Service, Luncheon following
3:00-4:30 p.m. Amy Vachon - piano recital(Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
2:00-6:00 p.m. Northern Lights Assembly

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3
1:00 p.m. CWU rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
12:00 N. DMA
6:00 p.m. Parents Adventure Club
7:00 p.m. Elders

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
World Community Day
10:00-3:00 p.m. Church Women United
(Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
11 a.m. Bible Study
12 n Lunch
1 p.m. Program

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

WEST CREIGHTON ANNUAL BAZAAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
9:30 A.M.-6:30 P.M.

SNACK BAR: 10:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M.
Homemade Vegetable Beef Soup or Chili, Cake, Cider or Coffee

DINNER HOURS: 4:00 P.M.-6:00P.M.
DINNERS: Beef & Noodles or Ham Loaf, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Vegetable, Delicious Salad Bar, Homemade Pie, Rolls, Coffee or Milk

TICKETS: Adults: $5:00
Children under 12: $2.50

BAZAAR: Beautiful Christmas items, Candy, Carmel Corn, Noodles, Baked Goods, Mince Meat, Apple Butter, This and That table and more

845 West Creighton Avenue
(corner of Miner & West Creighton)
Supervised Parking on Miner Street Lot

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

Our " Walk to Behlehem" is only six weeks away!

We invite all members of First Christian to join us in our "Gift to the Community." There are many ways you can help. A lot of acting roles still need to be filled and many tasks to be completed to ensure this year's "Walk" will be a success. Contact Diane Mory and sign up for your place in this Christmas undertaking.

The "Walk to Bethlehem" will take place on **Friday and Saturday nights, December 12th and 13th** around the church. Invite your friends and acquaintances to come and partake, as we highlight our faith and beliefs through our live Christmas pageant.

PRAYER SEMINAR

HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck (461-2882)

DID YOU KNOW ?

Did you know... that **Jack Weicker** will be among those honored by the south side High School Alumni Association this Saturday at the school auditorium at 7:30 P.M.

Did you know... that **Beulah Timmons** has moved? She now resides at Room 417 Grace Village Retirement Community in Winona Lake. Her address is: Grace Village Retirement Community, Box 337, Winona Lake, IN 46590

Did you know... that Caren Wise is also on the Fellowship Committee?

Did you know... that Ed & Sue Allen donated a new coffepot to the church so we can serve both regular and decaffinated? Thanks Ed & Sue!

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	84		
October 19	177	$3,523.88	$2,362.82
Year-to-date	172	$148,003.00	$134,732.46

SERVING NOVEMBER 2

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Church & G. Bruckman
10:45 a.m. J. McGrew & S. Hayes

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION NOVEMBER 2

M. Bier, J. Franklin, L. Heimann

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 14

Jeffrey Grier(30), Gary Falbe(31), Jim Shirley(31), Coleen Wilcoxson(11/1), Sharon Eme(11/1), Judy Church(11/2), Jane Walsh(11/4), Ruth Stone(11/4), Martha Christy(11/5), John Phillips(11/5), Curt Miller(11/5), Michelle Stam(11/5), Anthony York(11/5), Trevor Collins(11/7), James Evans(11/7), Anna Lyons(11/7), Naomi Prechtl(11/7), Brent Jackson (11/7), Lucas Vachon(11/10), Marilyn McDougle(11/11), Linda Breeden(11/13), Jewel Byrket(11/14), James Hudlow(11/14), John Proegler(11/14)

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Ft. Wayne, IN
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

NOVEMBER 5, 1997 Volume 54, No. 36

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

The sign-up sheets for participation in this year's "Walk to Bethlehem" will be in the sanctuary this Sunday.

Attention - All Members - Join us in presenting this inspirational production in which we show Fort Wayne the One in whom we believe and have faith!

The annual Walk will be held on the Friday and Saturday nights of December 12th and 13th around the church. Five spotlighted scenes will be featured - complete with narrations and live animals.

If you would like to **Narrate, Act or just be "A Member of a Mob Scene"**, sign up this Sunday at the church. We will probably use duplicates in every position in order to give everybody a chance to participate on either Friday or Saturday.

Sign-up this Sunday! We're only five weeks from show-time.

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Last Sunday was a great day, both in the life of our congregation and for Disciple congregations which gathered for the Northern Lights Area Assembly in Huntington. I hope we will continue to share in the life of our church family as we gather here each Sunday as well as explore our relationship with our larger church family known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This Sunday I will be preaching on the theme, "The Cost of Discipleship." A book by that title written by German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer has always been a source of challenge to me. Bonhoeffer appreciated the vitality of faith which he experienced in America, but was critical of the "easy gospel" which seem to be proclaimed from so many pulpits. He returned to Germany and became active in the resistance movement against Hitler and Nazism and died a martyrs death in prison one day before the camp in which he was held prisoner was liberated. His contrast between "cheap grace and costly grace" continues to be a powerful image for our day and time.

I encourage you to read one of the 'hard sayings' of our Lord, recorded in Mark 8:34-38 as you prepare for worship this Sunday. As you read these words, go one step farther and ask yourself two questions: what have I **given up** [denied myself] because I have chosen to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and what responsibilities, actions, risks have I **taken up** because of my commitment?

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

Riley Ericson Krull
born October 28, 1997
to Eric and Heather Krull.
weighed 7lbs. 15 oz. 20 inches long.
Mark & Rosemary Krull are the proud grandparents.
Becky and Lauren Krull are the aunt and cousin.

PIT CREW INFORMATION

(THIS INCLUDES THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION)

Our First Christian "500" HAS BEGUN! Sometime within the next week or two a fellow member will deliver to you a special Gas Can containing very little "fuel" (it needs a little help from you, friends).

Here's all you need to do:

1. Remove the lid from the can. Inside you will find an Estimate of Giving Card. Fill in the amount of tithes and offering you expect to present to God through your church. Seal the card in the enclosed envelope and place it in the Gas Can. Replace the lid.

2. Now complete your part of the Pit Stop as soon as possible and quickly relay the Gas Can to the next family on the route list. You may wish to contact ahead to be sure they are home. Try to complete your effort in 24 hours.

3. After you have delivered the Gas Can, immediately call your driver (team captain) and notify him or her.

As in all auto races, the success of the entire tam depends on dedication, commitment and team work of each person.

God will be our winner however it takes all of us together to get there. we're counting on you!

Joys & Concerns

Continue to lift **Bev Hendricks and Kathlyn Banet** in your prayers.

Five-year-old **Cloe Cook** is still in Riley Hospital following her surgery. Keep her in your prayers and keep sending those cards. Her address is:

Riley Hospital, 702 Barnhill Dr.
Box # 1739, Indianapolis, IN
46202

Eric Morey is home from the hospital recovering at his parents house. Please pray for him. He has much to recover from.

Orda Glentzer has moved to Covington Manor while she recovers from her surgery. She is sharing a room with Lucille Branstrator. Her address is: 5700 Wilkie Dr. 46804

Pray for Beulah Timmons as she continues to recover from her broken hip and to make the adjustment to her new home at Grace Village Retirement Community in Winona Lake.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
18TH ANNUAL
. . . . . .
ALL YOU CAN EAT
CASA D'ANGELO
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, November 16, 1997
11 am - 7 pm
Concordia High School, 1601 St. Joe River Dr.,
All You Can Eat
Carry-Out Available

For more information and Tickets call:
(219)456-1600 or 1-888-456-1600
Tickets may be bought the day of the event at the door.
Cost $6.00 Adults; $4.00 Seniors (65+); $4.00 Kids 6-12, under 6 Free.
Proceeds help the agency to serve more than 704 youth in Northeast Indiana.

In a national study conducted by Public/Private Ventures, come 959 boys and girls in eight states entered an historic experiment. The children ranged in age from 10 through 16. approximately half were matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister, while the others were assigned to a waiting list. On average, the matched children met with their big Brothers or Big Sisters about three times a month for one year. Researchers found that 18 months later, the Little Brothers and Little Sisters were:

* 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
* 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
* 52% less likely to skip school
* 37% less likely to skip a class
* More confident of their performance in schoolwork
* 1/3 less likely to hit someone, and
* Getting along better with their families.

NEEDED NOW!

The sewing group needs used sheets to use in making cancer pads. Bring whatever you have to the office before Tuesday morning.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	58		
October 26	158	$3,523.88	$1,983.58
Year-to-date	172	$151,526.84	$136,716.04

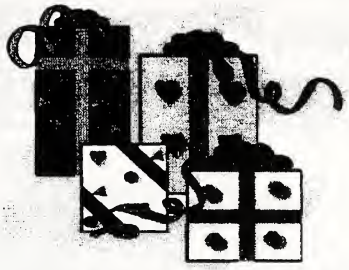
Northern Lights Assembly

(EXCESS OF 200 PEOPLE)

If you were unable to attend the area meeting at Huntington Central Christian Church, you missed a terrific program and a time for strong fellowship. It was great to see that all churches in our area were represented. Our choir and bells presented a great program! There were four other choirs that presented programs and a complete area combination of bells. The fellowship was tremendous and we pray for more successes with this program.

We are suggesting that each of us consider food donations to our food bank. We are supplied by the "Community Food Bank" however, there have been many times we find our stock is depleted. **Especially required right now are: powdered milk, canned fruit, laundry soap, noodles, instant potatoes, peanut butter,cereal, and canned vegetables.**

Each Sunday you may wish to provide your "ticket" to church by placing your gift in the box at the entry doors.



It's that time again!

Elinore Place is hosting a Christmas Boutique again this year. She, along with other crafters, will be displaying their crafts in her home. We are all inviting you to come.

Date: November 14 from 9am 'til 7pm
November 15 from 9am 'til 5pm

Address: 3360 Elmhurst Drive
Fort Wayne, IN
(across from Elmhurst High School)

Refreshments will be served.
We hope to see you then.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
World Community Day
10:00-3:00 p.m. Church Women United
(Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
11 a.m. Bible Study
12 n Lunch
1 p.m. Program

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
2:00-6:00 p.m. Youth to visit Huntington

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Requisitions Picked Up
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. Administrative Board
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 23

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Harvest Dinner Sunday, November 23. Arraignments will be similar to last year. Fellowship Committee will provide the rolls, drinks and table service. **Those whose names begin with A-M are invited to bring a main dish. Those whose names begin with letters N-Z can bring vegetable, salad or dessert.** What a good time to celebrate our bountiful blessings with our church family!

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck
(home 447-2833) (work 461-2883)

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Covington Manor Nursing Center, 5700 Wilkie Dr. 46804
Lucille Branstrator
Orda Glentzer

Grace Village Retirement Community, Box 337, Winona Lake, IN 46590
Beulah Timmons, Room 417

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Velma Hechler, Room 116
Sarah Smith, Room C356

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 201

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Health Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Glenn & Lola Miller, Room 203

AT HOME:

Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

SERVING NOVEMBER 9

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. Eunice Conrad & Anne Moll

10:45 a.m. Charlie Hatten & Bill Franklin

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, J. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles

10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, J. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G. Cole, C. Deck, L. McFarland, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION NOVEMBER 9 & 16

C. Davis, G. Baitz, J. Baitz

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

B. Bier & J. Franklin, K. Cron & E. Gorman, K. Ohneck & H. Mathis, D. Heimann & Sally Rudy

LAY READERS

8:30: Marty Bier

10:45: Heather Holmes

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Roger & Anne Moll

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER 7-21

Trevor Collins(11/7), James Evans(11/7), Anna Lyons(11/7), Naomi Prechtl(11/7), Brent Jackson (11/7), Lucas Vachon(11/10), Marilyn McDougle(11/11), Linda Breeden(11/13), Jewel Byrket(11/14), James Hudlow(11/14), John Proegler(11/14), Kathy Marvel(11/16), Tom Meadows(11/16), Erin Favory(11//18), Randy Hendrickson(11/18), Deb Miller(11/18), Jenica Wilson(11/18), Ressie Ehresman(11/20), Laura York(11/21)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

NOVEMBER 12, 1997 Volume 54, No. 37

PIT CREW INFORMATION

(THIS INCLUDES THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION)

Our First Christian "500" HAS BEGUN! Sometime within the next week or two a fellow member will deliver to you a special Gas Can containing very little "fuel" (it needs a little help from you, friends).

Here's all you need to do:

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2. Now complete your part of the Pit Stop as soon as possible and quickly relay the Gas Can to the next family on the route list. You may wish to contact ahead to be sure they are home. Try to complete your effort in 24 hours.

3. After you have delivered the Gas Can, immediately call your driver (team captain) and notify him or her.

As in all auto races, the success of the entire team depends on dedication, commitment and team work of each person.

God will be our winner. However, it takes all of us working together to get there. We're counting on you!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

There are many exciting things happening at First Christian! This season of the year is usually packed with activities. We are in the midst of our stewardship effort. I hope every member/family will give prayerful consideration to their financial giving for the coming year. The fact that we are in an "interim time" is no reason to be casual about our giving. Stewardship is a personal commitment of our time, talents and resources to God, based on our ability to give. A good response from the membership is a vote of confidence in the future of this congregation and its ministries in the days ahead.

We are also in that joyous time of the year when we celebrate with thanksgiving, God's gracious gifts to us.... the physical gifts we enjoy as a nation and the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ our Lord. The time we call Advent-Christmas is a time for both reflection and celebration. Committees are hard at work, planning for the "Walk To Bethlehem", Advent worship services, Christmas Eve Worship and much more.

We are placing a special emphasis on re-uniting the family of Christ in this place with a special "Come Home for Christmas" emphasis. Be watching for a special letter to YOU and plan to share in these powerful days of Advent-Christmas. If you have been away from your church, for whatever reason, we hope you will "come home" and share the blessing of your presence with others in your family.

This Sunday I will be preaching on the theme, "How To Talk To God When You Aren't Feeling Religious." Read Jeremiah 20:7-13 as you prepare to worship God and explore a different dimension of prayer.

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

WALK TO BETHLEHEM has become a high point in our church life and now is the time to indicate how you want to show your support. **WALK TO BETHLEHEM** gives us the opportunity to witness to our faith through the telling of the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago. It is a wonderful way to reachout to the community with the gift of the reason for the season.

If you have any questions about how you can help you may want to contact the following people:

Sue Brey, Costumes	447-3540
Karen Bushey, Logistics	747-3770
George Cole, Publicity	447-9285
Kathy Cron, Marketplace	482-5817
Lori Crouter, Worship	456-0079
Laura McFarland & Caren Wise, Food in Marketplace	436-5839
Dick Mey, Construction & Animals	493-3993
Diane Mory, Casting	456-3961
Lori Vandergriff, Scenes & Props	447-4195

ONLY FOUR WEEKS AWAY!

DO YOU HAVE...?

...ANY BASKETS, OIL LAMPS, CROCKS OR POTTERY you would be willing to lend? We need them to help decorate for the **Walk to Bethlehem.** If you have any of these items please put your name on each one (so we can be sure to return them to the right people), and place them on the stage. If you have any questions give Laura or Caren a call. (See previous column)

PRAYER FOCUS

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck
(home 447-2833) (work 461-2883)

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
18TH ANNUAL

. . . . . .

ALL YOU CAN EAT
CASA D'ANGELO
SPAGHETTI DINNER

Big Brothers Big Sisters
Spaghetti Dinner
Next Sunday, November 16, 1997
11 am - 7 pm
Concordia High School,
1601 St. Joe River Dr.,
All You Can Eat
Carry-Out Available

For more information and Tickets call:
(219)456-1600 or 1-888-456-1600
Tickets may be bought the day of the event at the door.
Cost $6.00 Adults; $4.00 Seniors (65+);
$4.00 Kids 6-12, under 6 Free.
Proceeds help the agency to serve more than 704 youth in Northeast Indiana.

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* 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
* 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
* 52% less likely to skip school
* 37% less likely to skip a class
* More confident of their performance in schoolwork
* 1/3 less likely to hit someone, and
* Getting along better with their families.

RACHEL ALERT

Women interested in a study of Women in the Bible, mark your calendar for a meeting in the library for Tuesday morning, November 18th at 9:30 am.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	85		
November 2	172	$3,523.88	$4,595.58
Year-to-date	172	$155,050.72	$141,311.62

Joys & Concerns

Continue to lift **Bev Hendricks, Beulah Timmons** and **Eric Mory** in your prayers.

Cloe Cook was in church on Sunday! Praise God

Orda Glentzer is at home now doing real well recovering from her surgery.

Dawn Pierce is recovering at home. Pray for her.

Kathlyn Banet is now at Lutheran Rehabilitation Center, Room 131. She had a very good day Monday and would really enjoy visitors. Let Herb know you've been there, too. It encourages him.

Glenn Miller (Lola's) is in Parkview Hospital, Room 431, Bed 1. He is not doing well.

Don't Forget to Feed the

It's that time again!

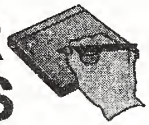
Elnore Place is hosting a Christmas Boutique again this year. She, along with other crafters, will be displaying their crafts in her home. We are all inviting you to come.

Date: Friday from 9am 'til 7pm
Saturday from 9am 'til 5pm

Address: 3360 Elmhurst Drive
Fort Wayne, IN
(across from Elmhurst High School)

Refreshments will be served.
We hope to see you then.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal;
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
2:00-6:00 p.m. Youth Group
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
6:30 p.m. Christian Education
7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
9:00 a.m. Rachel Group
6:30 -7:30 p.m. Adventure Club Parents
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
12:30-3:00 p.m. Bishop Luers Teachers' Retreat
3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players
1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

HARVEST DINNER

NOVEMBER 23

5:00 P.M.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Harvest Dinner Next Sunday, November 23. Arraignments will be similar to last year. Fellowship Committee will provide the rolls, drinks and table service. **Those whose names begin with A-M are invited to bring a main dish. Those whose names begin with letters N-Z can bring vegetable, salad or dessert.** What a good time to celebrate our bountiful blessings with our church family!

Start Advent Off Right
Come help with the
HANGING OF THE GREENS
November 29th
9:00 A.M.
Everyone is welcome!

INVITATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Anthony Wayne Church of God invites you to its

ABSOLUTELY FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

11:30-1 PM
Thanksgiving Day

The Anthony Wayne Church of God
(on the corner of Getz Rd. & S. Bend Dr.)
is once again doing their
Absolutely Free Thanksgiving Dinner.
This meal is aimed primarily at individuals and families who don't have anyone with whom to celebrate Thanksgiving and would enjoy joining the family of God in theirs. **Turkey and all the trimmings will be served!** If you or someone you know (especially in the Time Corners-Aboite Township area) would like to come, please call the church: **432-3342** so they know about how many to plan for. If you would like to help or bring a dish let them know that too. Dinner will be served from 11:30-1:00pm and will be followed by a program beginning at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome. The more, the merrier!

Taylor University-Fort Wayne Campus
and
WBCL Radio
invite you to

A Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gerig Activities Center, Fort Wayne Campus
1025 West Rudisill Blvd.
$7 all seats * $6 children, seniors and groups
All seats are general seating

Tickets are available through
TUFW University Relations Office
456-2111, ext.32296; campus bookstore,
and area Christian bookstores.

Thank you for all the cards, gifts and prayers while Chloe was in Riley Hospital. She is home now and recovering nicely from her surgery. Thank you again!

Denis & Nikki Cook

SERVING NOVEMBER 16

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. K. Cron & J. Ohneck
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann & C. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Riecke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION NOVEMBER 16

C. Davis, G. Baitz, J. Baitz

LAY READERS

8:30: Sue Knuckles
10:45: Katie Moll

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Greg & Jenny Baitz

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER 14-30

Jewel Byrket(11/14), James Hudlow(11/14), John Proegler(11/14), Kathy Marvel(11/16), Tom Meadows(11/16), **Bill Riggs(11/18),** Erin Favory(11//18), Randy Hendrickson(11/18), Deb Miller(11/18), Jenica Wilson(11/18), **Ressie Ehresman - 95yrs.(11/20),** Laura York(11/21), Brandon Proegler(11/22), Kerry Grabowski(11/23),Nellie Buchanan(11/24), Marlene Crouse(11/25), Joan Ott(11/25), Kris Scott(11/27), Danielle Favory(11/28), Mary Sue Ludwig(11/28), Ken Perkins(11/28), Brent Alexander(11/29), Barbara Bond(11/29)

Published weekly by
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Ft. Wayne, IN
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

NOVEMBER 19, 1997 Volume 54, No. 38

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Winter paid an early visit to the Fort Wayne area this past week-end. Although attendance was a bit lower than normal, the spirit and enthusiasm of our time together was not diminished. I especially appreciated the "happy birthday" wishes and enjoyed the good time together at Pizza Hut following the second worship service. I have been turning 39 for many years now, and this being the 27th time I have done so, I feel like an old hand at birthdays!

This Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday. I am looking forward to this day....to a time of celebration in worship and to the time of fellowship at the Harvest Dinner at 5:00 p.m. I will be preaching on the theme "Completing the Circle of Gratitude" at both worship services. I encourage you to read Deuteronomy 8:11-20 before you come to worship. I will be suggesting that thanksgiving, in the biblical sense, involves recognizing our gifts and acknowledging the giver of the gifts. The circle of gratitude is complete when we then move to becoming givers ourselves.

I look forward to greeting you as we gather to thank God for the many blessings we receive daily and to commit our lives to be expressions of continuing gratitude as we learn to give freely and joyously of the gifts with which we have been abundantly blessed.

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

What Do They Do?

Many questions have been raised by our members as to who they might talk to for clarifying a problem or a situation. We have printed the list of departments and department heads in a recent "Tidings." Further discussion indicates a need to explain committee functions. Beginning this week we will provide a description for each Committee as written in our By-Laws.

Worship Committee:

1 The members of this committee shall consist of a chairperson, two Elders, two members of the Diaconate, two choir members, and four members from the congregation at large. The chairperson shall select the committee members in consultation with the Lay Leadership Committee. Committee members shall serve for a two year period with members serving no more than two consecutive terms without an interval of one year.

2 Members of this committee shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Christ, and their desire to plan and lead meaningful worship experiences through music, art, and verbal expression.

3 Functions of Committee

a Develop an effective and coordinated program of worship for the entire church expressed in terms of goals and objectives.

b Be responsible, with the professional staff, for the public worship services of the congregation, including communion and baptismal services, any other special services, general decorum, and physical aids to worship.

c Encourage effective worship in the various organizations of the congregation.

d Develop a program of personal devotional life throughout the congregation, including promotion of daily devotions, selection of material and their distribution.

e Enable and promote the musical program of the congregation, including choirs and other musical groups.

f Enable and promote the program of religious drama in the congregation.

g Provide for annual evaluation and reassessment of goals and objectives.

h Schedule ushers and lay readers for worship services.

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

IT'S JUST
THREE WEEKS AWAY!!

You can hear and see promotions of our inspirational "Walk" coming up in the local media:

WANE-TV, channel 15 will televise live from First Christian Church on the morning of Tuesday, December 9th at 6:15 a.m. with cast and characters. Wednesday, December 10th an interview has been scheduled with WJFX-FM at 9:00 a.m. Southern Gospel station WLYV will tape a conversation about our "Walk" to be aired on Saturday, December 6th.

These and other interviews will be announced as they are scheduled in upcoming editions of the "Tidings"

NEEDS LISTS

Walk to Bethlehem:

As in years past, we are in need of "loans" of the propls used for "The Walk". The following is our list:

Rugs: Oriental-like in appearance (or tapestries)
Carpet Bags/Jute Bags
Baskets
Pottery ("in period" appearance)
Oil Lamps
Candles (large - not tapers or votives)

Please bring your loaned items before December 5th and leave them near the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group:

Youth are in need of ***Wrapping Paper*** for Christmas.

If you have extra you don't need, bring it to lthe church and leave it in the youth room. - We need ***Tape*** also!

Nursery:

We need help in the Nursery. No, not babysitters but helpers. The jobs of a helper include: cleaning toys, washing blankets & sheets, and just taking care of little jobs that need to be done! This only takes about 2 hours per month but is very inportant to help the nursery run smoothly. Call Margaret Prechtl for information 432-2076.

Attention Christmas Shoppers!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

No time to Wrap Presents?
No Time to Shop Without Kids?

The youth at First Christian will be offering babysitting and gift wrapping on the following dates:

December 6	1-5 pm
December 13 & 14	1-5 pm
December 20 & 21	1-5 pm

Youth Fund Raiser

Rates will be :
$1.00/hour per child
$.50 per package wrapped
Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Please sign - up in the Fellowship Hall or just show up.

Tell a Friend!!!

DMA

NOON DEC 2nd

As the song goes, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." So let's have a party! Everyone bring a gift for exchange to this carry-in luncheon. See you there!

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck
(home 447-2833) (work 461-2883)

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	88		
November 9	187	$3,523.88	$3,274.00
Year-to-date	172	$158,574.60	$144,585.62

Joys & Concerns

Bev Hendricks and **Ruth Truesdell** were in the hospital recently. Ruth's bronchitis is much better. **Mary Wilhelm** and **Sarah Smith** were in the hospital early this week.

Continue to lift **Beulah Timmons** in your prayers.

Eric Mory, Cloe Cook, Orda Glentzer and **Dawn Pierce** continue to need your prayers as they recover from their surgeries.

Kathlyn Banet is now at Lutheran Rehabilitation Center, Room 131. She had a very good day Monday and would really enjoy visitors. Let Herb know you've been there, too. It encourages him.

Youth Group Scoop

ATTENTION!

No Youth Group On:

November 23rd & 30th

Sign - up for babysitting & gift Wrapping in the Fellowship Hall!

With Sympathy

Cherishing memories of a life well lived and confident of an eternal triumph achieved, we nevertheless sorrow at the death of Glenn R. Miller in Fort Wayne on Saturday, November 15 and offer our sympathy and prayers to his wife Lola and their daughter Marilyn Rayle.

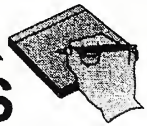
Music Notes

Reminder to Chancel Choir

Rehearsals for our performance with Faith United Methodist and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic have begun. Each Thursday at 8:00 p.m. we rehearse at Faith United Methodist. Be There!

Peace,
Brian Prechtl

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

12:30-3:00 p.m. Bishop Buers Teachers' Retreat

3:30-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club

5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with Faith United Methodist

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal;

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service,

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship

5:00 p.m. Harvest Dinner

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Requisitions Picked up

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:00 a.m. Sewing Group

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

HARVEST DINNER

THIS SUNDAY

5:00 P.M.

DON'T FORGET to attend our Harvest Dinner THIS Sunday, November 23. Arraignments will be similar to last year. Fellowship Committee will provide the rolls, drinks and table service. **Those whose names begin with A-M are invited to bring a main dish. Those whose names begin with letters N-Z can bring vegetable, salad or dessert.** What a good time to celebrate our bountiful blessings with our church family!

Start Advent Off Right
Come help with the
HANGING OF THE GREENS
November 29th
9:00 A.M.
Everyone is welcome!

INVITATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

The Anthony Wayne Church of God invites you to its

ABSOLUTELY FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

11:30-1 PM
Thanksgiving Day

The Anthony Wayne Church of God
(on the corner of Getz Rd. & S. Bend Dr.)
is once again doing their
Absolutely Free Thanksgiving Dinner.
This meal is aimed primarily at individuals and families who don't have anyone with whom to celebrate Thanksgiving and would enjoy joining the family of God in theirs. **Turkey and all the trimmings will be served!** If you or someone you know (especially in the Time Corners-Aboite Township area) would like to come, please call the church: **432-3342** so they know about how many to plan for. If you would like to help or bring a dish let them know that too. Dinner will be served from 11:30-1:00pm and will be followed by a program beginning at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome. The more, the merrier!

Taylor University-
Fort Wayne Campus
and
WBCL Radio
invite you to

A Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gerig Activities Center, Fort Wayne Campus
1025 West Rudisill Blvd.
$7 all seats * $6 children, seniors and groups
All seats are general seating

Tickets are available through
TUFW University Relations Office
456-2111, ext.32296; campus bookstore,
and area Christian bookstores.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR THIRD QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS !

Statements covering third quarter giving may be found in the narthax. Pick yours up Sunday and save your church postage costs.

NOTE: OFFERINGS RECEIVED ON AUGUST 31 DO NOT SHOW ON YOUR STATEMENT BUT THE MISTAKE HAS BEEN CORRECTED AND THOSE GIFTS WILL

SERVING NOVEMBER 23

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. B. Crouse & B. Bier
10:45 a.m. B. Widmer & J. Mey

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff, E. Yeoman

COMMUNION PREPARATION NOVEMBER 23 & 30

T. Knuckles, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

G. Bruckman & C. Deck, A. Moll & G. Cole, J. McGrew & L. Whitworth, B. Franklin & W. Whitworth

LAY READERS

8:15: Dick Mory
10:45: Chris Olson

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER 20-DECEMBER 10

Ressie Ehresman - 95yrs.(11/20), Laura York(11/21), Brandon Proegler(11/22), Kerry Grabowski(11/23),Nellie Buchanan(11/24), Marlene Crouse(11/25), Joan Ott(11/25), Kris Scott(11/27), Danielle Favory(11/28), Mary Sue Ludwig(11/28), Ken Perkins(11/28), Brent Alexander(11/29), Barbara Bond(11/29), Lauren Ewing(11/30), Ethel Richhart(12/6), Sue Kerley(12/7), Bill Franklin(12/10)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Tidings

NOVEMBER 26, 1997 Volume 54, No. 38

Prayer Request for "Walk to Bethlehem"

That "Walk to Bethlehem" becomes a way to say thank you to God for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

In his sermon last Sunday, Pastor Riggs urged us to recognize our gifts, then the giver and finally to become generous. The Thanksgiving holiday is too often overshadowed by the crush of Christmas. Can we really hope to feel the Spirit of Christmas if we don't take time to recognize God's gift of Jesus, thank God for the gift and then give the gift of Jesus away? Let us pray that presenting "Walk to Bethlehem" to the community becomes our way of saying thank you to God.

Thank You God!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We begin our Advent journey at First Christian this Sunday. Advent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. I will be doing a sermon series entitled "Beams From the Advent Star" during this beautiful and powerful season. We will explore the beams of hope, peace, love and joy as we move through the season.

I am also looking forward to sharing in the "Walk To Bethlehem": on the evenings of December 12 and 13. I am pleased our congregation sees this program as a gift to the community. Many of our people will be volunteering for roles in this presentation. We hope everyone will attend one of the evenings and will also invite neighbors and friends to share in the experience as well.

"Come Home For Christmas" is another part of our Advent emphasis this year. We miss family members who have not been sharing in the life of First Christian Church, our "home." We want our church family re-united and pray that those who have been away for a while, whatever the reason, will come home and celebrate anew the gift of love we have received in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The first Sunday in Advent signals the beginning of our time of preparation. Through music, prayer, proclamation and the symbolic lighting of the Advent Candles we declare again the good news of God's love in Christ. We will be changing our order of worship slightly to sharpen the focus of these important days before us. I hope you will make every effort to be present for worship each Sunday!

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck
(home 447-2833) (work 461-2883)

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

Some of you have already volunteered to be angels, tour guides, Joseph, Mary, etc. but many of you have not. Please consider this and then go to the Fellowship Hall on Sunday and sign on the dotted line. SUE BREY will then be contacting you about your costume so that you will have one assigned to you BEFORE the Dress Rehearsal which will be held December 7, 1997 at 5 p.m.

George Cole is doing an excellent job as Publicity Chairman and has made several media contacts but publicity is something EVERYONE can do. A "Walk to Bethlehem" brochure will be in the Tidings and the Sunday morning bulletin for the next two weeks. There will also be an ample supply in the Church office. Please share them with family, friends, your barber, your mechanic, your grocer — anyone you see regularly. You could even send them as Christmas cards. And then there is your favorite parking lot where you can put them under window wipers on cars. This was done last year with excellent results.

NEEDS LISTS

Walk to Bethlehem:

As in years past, we are in need of "loans" of the props used for "The Walk". The following is our list:

Rugs: Oriental-like in appearance (or tapestries)
Carpet Bags/Jute Bags
Baskets
Pottery ("in period" appearance)
Oil Lamps
Candles (large - not tapers or votives)

Please bring your loaned items before December 5th and leave them near the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group:

Youth are in need of ***Wrapping Paper*** for Christmas.

If you have extra you don't need, bring it to the church and leave it in the youth room. - We need ***Tape*** also!

Nursery:

We need help in the Nursery. No, not baby-sitters but helpers. The jobs of a helper include; cleaning toys, washing blankets & sheets, and just taking care of little jobs that need to be done! This only takes about 2 hours per month but is very important to help the nursery run smoothly. Call Margaret Prechtl for information 432-2076.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating again this year with poinsettias. They will all be red in a 6 1/2" pot. Cost is $10.00.

If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory of someone or in honor of someone, please state that below. If you choose to take your plant home, please do so after the service on December 24.

Place your check for $10.00 - or for however many you want - in the offering plate or mail to the church office along with the order blank below. Orders will be accepted until December 14.

Attention Christmas Shoppers!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

No Time to Wrap Presents?
No Time to Shop Without Kids?

The youth at First Christian will be offering baby-sitting and gift wrapping on the following dates:

December 6	1-5 pm
December 13 &14	1-5 pm
December 20 &21	1-5 pm

Youth Fund Raiser

Rates will be:
$1.00/hour per child
$.50 per package wrapped
Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Please sign-up in the fellowship Hall or just show up.

Tell a Friend!!!

Poincettias

DONATED BY:_____

IN HONOR OF:_____

IN MEMORY OF:_____

I WILL PICK UP AFTER WORSHIP 12/24_____
PLEASE GIVE TO A SHUT-IN_____

Joys & Concerns

Ruth Truesdell, Ed Hall, Mary Wilhelm and **Sarah Smith** were in the hospital last week. All are now home.

Eric Mory, Cloe Cook, Orda Glentzer and **Dawn Pierce** continue to need your prayers as they recover from their surgeries.

Kathlyn Banet has now moved to the Renaissance Village, Rm 218. The address is: 650 S. 800 E-92, 46804. (Off State Rd. 14)

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

ATTENTION!

No Youth Group On:
November 23rd & 30th
Sign - up for baby-sitting & gift Wrapping in the Fellowship Hall!

THE STORY OF THE PECAN

The pecans and walnuts ordered have arrived. There are several bags of pecans still available and a few bags of walnuts. The following information gives us a glimpse of this special treat used often during the holiday season.

The golden-kerneled pecan, like the turkey, corn, peanuts, tomatoes and potatoes, is a native American contribution to the fine foods of the world. Records of Desoto reveal that Indians had been enjoying tasty nuts of the "Pecan" tree long before Europeans arrived on these shores.

This stately tree grows wild in the southern United States. Varieties which have been cultivated and improved are called "Papershells." These varieties do not grow wild but are planted in orchards and carefully cultivated. These are available now. If you want to purchase a bag or two , please call church office. Also, watch for recipes using pecans in the Tidings from time to time.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	77		
November 16	154	$3,523.88	$2,343.75
Year-to-date	172	$162,098.68	$146,929.37

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens

10:00 a.m. Parenthetical Players

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

First Sunday in Advent

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Requisitions Picked up

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

12:00 noon DMA Christmas Party/ Carry-in Luncheon

6:30-7:30 p.m. Adventure Club Parents

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

6:00 p.m. New Parent Class (Parlor)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club

8:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with F.U.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

3:00 p.m. Margaret Prechtl's Piano Recital(Sanctuary)

Taylor University-
Fort Wayne Campus
and
WBCL Radio
invite you to

A Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gerig Activities Center, Fort Wayne Campus
1025 West Rudisill Blvd.
$7 all seats * $6 children, seniors and groups
All seats are general seating

Tickets are available through
TU/FW University Relations Office
456-2111, ext.32296; campus bookstore,
and area Christian bookstores.

Reminder to Chancel Choir

Rehearsals for our performance with Faith United Methodist and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic have begun. Each Thursday at 8:00 p.m. we rehearse at Faith United Methodist. Be There!

Peace,
Brian Prechtl

What Do They Do?

Property Committee:

1 The members of this committee shall consist of the chairperson and at least eight (8), but not more than twelve (12), persons. The chairperson shall select the committee members in consultation with the Lay Leadership Committee. Committee members shall serve for a two year period with members serving no more than two consecutive terms without an interval of one year.

2 Members of this committee shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Christ and their desire to maintain a building which provides a place for worship, fellowship, education, and service within our congregation and the outside community.

3 Functions of Committee.

a Develop an effective and coordinated program for Property needs expressed in terms of goals and objectives.

b Supervise the care, repair, protection, and inventory of the church building, grounds, and equipment.

c Project, estimate, and supervise purchases of equipment or materials deemed necessary for the improvement of our church property.

d Maintain adequate insurance coverage for all church property and work with church officers on tax exemption and on other matters.

e Administer policies on building and its usage, and recommend to the Board of Trustees such policies as deemed appropriate.

f Develop plans for future building and grounds improvements.

g Provide for annual evaluation and reassessment of goals and objectives.

DMA

NOON DEC 2nd

As the song goes, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas." So let's have a party! Everyone bring a gift for exchange to this carry-in luncheon. See you there!

SERVING NOVEMBER 30

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. E. Conrad & K. Ohneck
10:45 a.m. S. Hayes & J. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G. Cole, C. Deck, L. McFarland, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION NOVEMBER 30

T. Knuckles, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen

LAY READERS

8:15: Diane Mory
10:45:

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Wayne & Laura Whitworth

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 13

Kris Scott(11/27), Danielle Favory(11/28), Mary Sue Ludwig(11/28), Ken Perkins(11/28), Brent Alexander(11/29), Barbara Bond(11/29), Bethel Breeden(12/1), Miles Wilson(12/1), Mildred Arruza(12/6), Ethel Richhart(12/6), Sue Kerley(12/7), Brenda Proegler(12/7), Shelley Sendelbach(12/08), Clifton Bowman(12/9)(89 yrs), Jason Prechtl(12/09), Bill Franklin(12/10), Sara Davis(12/12), Dan Mory(12/13)

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(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

DECEMBER 3, 1997 Volume 54, No. 39

Prayer Request for "Walk to Bethlehem"

That "Walk to Bethlehem" becomes a way to demonstrate to the community that there is HOPE and that hope is in JESUS CHRIST.

Pastor Riggs reminded us last Sunday that Advent is not an easy season. Our culture makes it difficult because we live in an age that expects things to be accomplished instantly. A time of preparation is central to the celebration of Christmas and Advent is the journey. As we prepare for "Walk to Bethlehem", let us pray that our journey to Christmas is filled with confidence in God's promises and that we can demonstrate to the community that our HOPE is is JESUS CHRIST. Do you know someone who needs to know of God's love and be filled with HOPE? Give them a personal invitation to "Walk to Bethlehem."

Jesus is our Hope

Come Home for Christmas

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We will continue our pilgrimage toward Bethlehem as we gather for worship on the second Sunday in Advent. We will continue to be led by the beams from the Advent star as we move ever closer to the manger and the message embodied there for the whole world to hear.

This Sunday I will be preaching on the second beam from the advent star, the ray of peace. For several years, the second Sunday in Advent has been observed as Peace Sunday in the Disciples churches. It seems appropriate to focus on this theme as we prepare to celebrate the birth of One who was to be called "the Prince of Peace,."

Ironically, the subject of peace is often seen as a controversial subject! What could be more central to our faith than "turning swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks?" What greater benediction from our Lord than his words in the beatitudes, "blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God?"

I encourage you to read Micah 4:1-4 and Matthew 5:1-8 as you prepare for worship this Sunday. As you read these passages, ask yourself what little wars are going on inside of you which need your attention. I suspect that all of us will find some swords and some spears which need to be converted into plowshares and pruning hooks!

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

Come Home For Christmas!

Thank you for the thoughts, concerns, prayers, cards, and calls at the time of my recent short stay in the hospital. A special thank you to Pastor Bill.

Mary Wilhelm

"WALK TO BETHLEHEM"
DRESS REHEARSAL
5 PM SUNDAY

All participants should meet in the sanctuary at 5:00 P.M. next Sunday, December 7, 1997. We will meet together briefly before going to our assigned Scene or group. We plan to be finished by 6:30 P.M. at the latest. Contact Sue Brey ahead of time to select your costume. On December 12 and 13, we are asking all actors to be in costume and in the sanctuary by 6:15 P.M. There will be a time of prayer as we center ourselves in God's presence so that we may convey God's message of Hope, Love and Peace to those who come.

NEEDS LISTS
Walk to Bethlehem:

As in years past, we are in need of "loans" of the props used for "The Walk". The following is our list:

Rugs: Oriental-like in appearance (or tapestries)
Carpet Bags/Jute Bags
Baskets
Pottery ("in period" appearance)
Oil Lamps
Candles (large - not tapers or votives)

Please bring your loaned items before December 5th and leave them near the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group:

Youth are in need of ***Wrapping Paper*** for Christmas.

If you have extra you don't need, bring it to the church and leave it in the youth room. - We need ***Tape*** also!

ON THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

The walk is just a week away! It will take place on Friday and Saturday nights, December 12th and 13th at First Christian Church from 6:30 til 8:30p.m.

For the next week a lot of promotion will take place to apprise Fort Wayne of our faith and inspiration and in order to present a gift to the community. This will begin at ***2:30 pm*** on ***this Saturday***, December 6th on **WLYV Radio, 1450 A.M.** Then on ***Tuesday*** morning, December 9th at ***6:15 am*** **WANE-TV, Channel 15**, will bring its live cameras to the church for an interview. We hope to have many cast members there in costume for the occasion. At ***4:30 p.m.*** that same day, **WFCV Radio, 1090** on the dial will broadcast a conversation concerning our "Walk." ***Wednesday***, December 10th at ***9:00 am*** another interview is scheduled on **WJFX Radio, 107.9 FM.** Talk radio **WGL, 1250AM,** will feature a "Walk" talk at ***12:30 pm*** that same day.

Tune in and pledge to do a fine inspirational job when we "Walk to Bethlehem" on the 12th and 13th!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating again this year with poinsettias. They will all be red in a 6 1/2" pot. Cost is $10.00.

If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory of someone or in honor of someone, please state that below. If you choose to take your plant home, please do so after the service on December 24.

Place your check for $10.00 - or for however many you want - in the offering plate or mail to the church office along with the order blank below. Orders will be accepted until December 14.

Attention Christmas Shoppers!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

No Time to Wrap Presents?
No Time to Shop Without Kids?

The youth at First Christian will be offering baby-sitting and gift wrapping on the following dates:

December 6	1-5 pm
December 13 &14	1-5 pm
December 20 &21	1-5 pm

Youth Fund Raiser

Rates will be:
$1.00/hour per child
$.50 per package wrapped
Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Please sign-up in the fellowship Hall or just show up.

Tell a Friend!!!

Poinsettias

DONATED BY:_____

IN HONOR OF:_____

IN MEMORY OF:_____

I WILL PICK UP AFTER WORSHIP 12/24_____
PLEASE GIVE TO A SHUT-IN_____

What Do They Do?

Outreach and Service Committee

1. The members of this committee shall consist of the chairperson and at least eight (8), but not more than twelve (12), persons. The chairperson shall select the committee members in consultation with the Lay Leadership Committee. Committee members shall serve for a two year period with members serving no more than two consecutive terms without an interval of one year.
2. Members of this committee shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Christ and his ministry to others; their recognition of and concern for the needs of all persons; and their ability to encourage and enable the wider ministry of the congregation in community, region, nation, and world.
3. Functions of Committee

a. Develop an effective and coordinated program of Christian outreach and service for the entire church expressed in terms of goals and objectives.

b. Focus the responsibilities and opportunities for personal involvement to meet concrete human needs in the community.

c. Initiate study programs to deal with social issues, political and community problems, especially those concerns suggested through denominational or ecumenical channels.

d. Undergird outreach support and giving through education and information both on a continuing basis and through Disciple special day observances.

e. Develop and administer the Outreach and Service budget of the congregation.

f. Provide for annual evaluation and reassessment of goals and objectives.

Joys & Concerns

Ruth Truesdell was in the hospital again last week for her bronchitis. She went home Sunday.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
November 23	200	$3,523.88	$3,025.10
Year-to-date	172	$165,622.36	$149,988.47

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal
7:30-9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith United Methodist

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping
1:00p.m. Choir Rehearsal
3:00 p.m. Margaret Prechtl's Student Recital (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Second Sunday in Advent
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship
5:00 p.m. "Walk" Dress Rehearsal

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

6:15 WANE interview
9:00 a.m. Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. Administrative Board
7:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Requisitions Picked up
12:30 p.m. WGL Radio Interview

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with F.U.M.

Taylor University-
Fort Wayne Campus
and
WBCL Radio
invite you to

A Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm

Gerig Activities Center, Fort Wayne Campus
1025 West Rudisill Blvd.
$7 all seats * $6 children, seniors and groups
All seats are general seating

Tickets are available through
TUFW University Relations Office
456-2111, ext.32296; campus bookstore,
and area Christian bookstores.

Come Home For Christmas!

Correction for F.U.M. Rehearsals

Rehearsals for our performance with Faith United Methodist and the Fort Wayne Philharmonic have begun. Each **Thursday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**, we rehearse at Faith United Methodist. There will also be a rehearsal **Saturday, Dec. 13, 10-12n.**

Peace,
Brian Prechtl

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS IN YOUR PRAYERS

IN NURSING HOMES & RETIREMENT HOMES:

The Arbors, 2827 Northgate Blvd. 46835
Fern Kenline, Room 202
Freda Flaugh, Room 301

Courtland Health & Rehabilitation Center, 3555 Spy Run Ext. 46805
Ardith Wrisk, Room 217

Covington Manor Nursing Center, 5700 Wilkie Dr. 46804
Lucille Branstrator

Grace Village Retirement Community, Box 337, Winona Lake, IN 46590
Beulah Timmons, Room 417

Kingston Residence, 7515 Winchester Road 46819
Valetta Parlette, Room 410

Lutheran Home, 6723 S. Anthony Blvd. 46816
Velma Hechler, Room 116
Sarah Smith, Room C356

Mariner Health Care Center, 4430 Elsdale Drive 46835
Bernice Montgomery, Room 201

Ossian Health Care, 215 Davis Road, Ossian, IN 46774
Dorothy Green, Room 301A

Riverbend, 7519 Winchester Road 46819
Lou Simmons, Room 105-2

Renaissance Village. 650 S. 800 E-92 46804
*Kathlyn Banet, Room 218
*Raymond (Room 104) & Mildred (Room 118) Sarrazin

St. Anne's Nursing Home, 1900 Randalia Drive 46805
Ressie Ehresman, Room 324-B

Townhouse Health Center, 2209 St. Joe Center Road 46825
Lola Miller, Room 203

AT HOME:

Jack & Emma Phillips, 1737 Godfrey Road 46819
Lila Russell, 3936 Irene Court 46808
Coleen Wilcoxson & Orda Glentzer, 746 Candlelite Court 46807
Charles Wrisk, 259 E. Sherwood Terrace 46807
Andy Cook, 11335 Gongwer Drive 46845

SERVING DECEMBER 7

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. A. Moll & G. Bruckman
10:45 a.m. B. Franklin & G. Klepfer

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, C. Davis, D. Keebortz, T. Knuckles
10:45 a.m. S. Brey, L. Brey, M. Deck, L. Deck, E. Gorman, H. Mathis, E. Rieke, L. Whitworth, W. Whitworth

COMMUNION PREPARATION DECEMBER 7 & 14

J. Ott, L. McFarland, E. Rieke

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

J. Ohneck & M. Crouse, J. Church & D. Bohlen, Bob Bier & J. Bohlen, J. Mey & S. Brickley

LAY READERS

8:15: Katie Moll
10:45:

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Linda Deck & Margaret Prechtl

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 6-20

Mildred Arruza(12/6), Ethel Richhart(12/6), Sue Kerley(12/7), Brenda Proegler(12/7), Shelley Sendelbach(12/08), Clifton Bowman(12/9)(89 yrs), Jason Prechtl(12/09), Bill Franklin(12/10), Sara Davis(12/12), Dan Mory(12/13), Erin Brosey(12/16), Amy Zimmerman(12/16), Graham Baughman(12/17), Jacob Smelser(12/18), Tim Knuckles(12/19), Lindsay Medlin(12/18), Diana Blomeke(12/20), Sara Brey(12/20), Tammy Ott(12/20)

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP ATTENTION!

Sign - up for baby-sitting & gift Wrapping in the Fellowship Hall!

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Ft. Wayne, IN
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

DECEMBER 10, 1997 Volume 54, No. 40

Prayer Request for "Walk to Bethlehem"

That "Walk to Bethlehem" becomes a way to demonstrate to the community that there can be PEACE on earth.

Last Sunday was Peace Sunday and Pastor Riggs lifted up Micah's appeal to hammer swords into plows and spears into pruning knives. Shalom is God's vision of peace and we were challenged to have the courage to seek it in spite of the pressures of society to accept war and violence as inevitable. As we pray to the "Prince of Peace", let us pray that "Walk to Bethlehem" may reflect our desire to be peacemakers in our troubled world.

Peace on Earth, Good Will toward Men

Come Home for Christmas!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

The "Walk To Bethlehem" is obviously an important event in the life of First Christian Church. I first heard about it in my initial telephone interview with the Search Committee back in August. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Judy Church and her fine committee as they make preparations for this special gift to our community. The time is now upon us and I eagerly await experiencing and participating in the "Walk" this Friday and Saturday evenings.

We will continue to focus on the theme, "Beams From the Advent Star" during our worship services during Advent. I will be preaching on "The Ray of Love" as we gather for worship this Sunday. The ray of love is one of the brightest beams from the Advent star. It bursts upon the darkened landscape of human rebellion with a bright and piercing light. For those who are watching and waiting for God's revelation, it is indeed a starburst of incredible magnitude.

We will explore this unfolding drama of God's love as we worship this Sunday. Please read Hosea 14:1-7 and John 3:16-21 in preparation for this encounter with God's patient and redeeming love.

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

Come Home For Christmas!

NOTICE! "WALK TO BETHLEHEM"

We are asking those people who are participating in this joyous celebration to meet at the church by 5:30 p.m. on the date you have been assigned. We will need all actors to be in costume and in the SANCTUARY by 6:15 p.m. on Friday, December 12 and Saturday December 13. There will be a time of prayer as we center ourselves in God's presence so that we may convey God's message of Hope, Love and Peace to those who come.

Watch "Walk to Bethlehem" on Public TV!

Members of First Christian can relive the inspiration of our "Walk to Bethlehem" right up until Christmas Day, even though this year's walk will be over.

Some members of the cast of "Walk to Bethlehem" have taped a 30 minute program for public access TV (Cable Channel 10). The program will be shown 8 times between now and Christmas. Watch for it and let others know about it!

Schedule for "Walk to Bethlehem" segment on Cable Channel 10:

Monday, December 15:	6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, December 16:	6:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 18:	10:30 P.M.
Friday, December 19:	11:30 A.M.
Saturday, December 20:	7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, December 24	6:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 25	6:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The door is still open for any who wish to provide pledges for the coming year. We have to date received, either by word or commitment, a pledged budget of $134,924. This information will be given to the finance committee on Tuesday, December 9, 1997. They will in turn review our total giving package and establish our working budget for 1998. Our total working budget will include your pledges and the gifts we received from non-pledges. Not all pledge cards are in. However, we expect only 10 or 12 more.

We thank all that have been supportive of our church by making their pledge for the coming year. It makes planning for the year more realistic.

Come Home For Christmas!

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	82		
November 3 0	168	$3,523.88	$2,046.57
Year-to-date	172	$169,146.24	$152,035.04

ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS NOW!

We will be decorating again this year with poinsettias. They will all be red in a 6 1/2" pot. Cost is $10.00.

If you would like to give a poinsettia in memory of someone or in honor of someone, please state that below. If you choose to take your plant home, please do so after the service on December 24.

Place your check for $10.00 - or for however many you want - in the offering plate or mail to the church office along with the order blank below.

ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL SUNDAY.

Attention Christmas Shoppers!

Ho! Ho! Ho!

No Time to Wrap Presents?
No Time to Shop Without Kids?

The youth at First Christian will be offering baby-sitting and gift wrapping on the following dates:

December 13 &14	1-5 pm
December 20 &21	1-5 pm

Rates will be:
$1.00/hour per child
$.50 per package wrapped
Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Youth Fund Raiser

Please sign-up in the fellowship Hall or just show up.

Tell a Friend!!!

Poinsettias

DONATED BY:_____

IN HONOR OF:_____

IN MEMORY OF:_____

I WILL PICK UP AFTER WORSHIP 12/24_____
PLEASE GIVE TO A SHUT-IN_____

What Do They Do?

Evangelism Committee

1 The members of this committee shall consist of the chairperson and at least eight (8), but not more than twelve (12), persons. The chairperson shall select the committee members in consultation with the Lay Leadership Committee. Committee members shall serve for a two year period with members serving no more than two consecutive terms without an interval of one year.

2 Members of this committee shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Christ, their enthusiasm as a witness, and their ability to inspire others in their efforts to bring persons to Christ and his Church.

3 Functions of committee

a Develop on effective and coordinated program of evangelism for the entire church expressed in terms of goal and objectives.

b Develop a climate of concern throughout the entire program of the congregation for winning uncommitted persons to Christ.

c Select and train members to become more effective callers.

d Immerse the entire evangelistic concern of the congregation in the discipline of prayer.

e Discover ways to build the prospective member list and nurture uncommitted persons, leading to confession of Christ as Lord and Savior, and commitment to his Church.

f Initiate through various media an awareness of the life and program of the congregation.

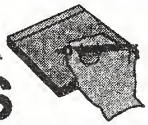
g Provide for annual evaluation and reassessment of goals and objectives.

Cherishing memories of a life well lived and confident of an eternal triumph achieved, we nevertheless sorrow at the death of Ray Stover's mother in Central Indiana on Thursday, December 4 and offer our sympathy and prayers to her son and his family.

Please pray for Betty Grimm's mother. She fell last week and broke her hip.

Remember Dianne Dunn and her family as they prepare to move during this very busy time of year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

7:30-9:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Faith United Methodist

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:30-8:30 pm Walk to Bethlehem

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

10:00-12:00 n. Choir Rehearsal at Faith United Methodist

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping

6:30-8:30 pm Walk to Bethlehem

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Third Sunday in Advent

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:30 a.m. Rachel Group at Elizabeth Dull's house

6:00 p.m. Adventure Club Parents

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with Philhar monic Orchestra

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Community Concert

David Borsvold, Conductor

William Skoog, Guest Conductor

Sunday, December 21, 1997

3:00 p.m.

Faith United Methodist Church

Jack Scott, Pastor

207 East Dewald Street

(Corner of Clinton & Dewald)

Free Admission

Featuring * Faith United Methodist Church Choir

*** First Christian Church Choir**

* Turner Chapel A.M.E.Choir

* IPFW University Singers

* River City Rhythm Men's Chorus.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Community Harvest Food Bank

F.U.M. Rehearsals

Rehearsals for our performance with Faith United Methodist:

Thursday Dec 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10-12n.

Thursday, Dec. 18 6:30 p.m.

-with Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:00 p.m.

Performance

REHABILITATION HOSPITAL OF FORT WAYNE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers have always played an important part in the tradition of excellence at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne. We invite you to contribute your time and talent to the hospital.

Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne is a physical rehabilitation facility providing a variety of therapies on both an inpatient and outpatient basis.

Volunteers have their choice of placement throughout the hospital to supplement the services of our staff and to provide the extras that make patient care more personal.

For further information on how to join the volunteer program, contact Deborah Giardina, Director of Volunteer services at 434-7142.

JANUARY CALENDAR DATES DUE NOW!

If you want meetings or activities noted on the January calendar please make sure the secretary has them ASAP. We would like to have the calendar ready by next Friday so it can be mailed before the new year. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that there will be LIVE animals at our "Walk to Bethlehem"? Thank you to Dick Mey & Charlie Hatten for making this possible!

***Did you know*.....**that Dianne Dunn, our church secretary, and her family will be moving the beginning of February? Dianne's husband Steve has been called to pastor a church in Celina, Ohio. They has been serving the Anthony Wayne Church of God for the last 14 years.

(If you have any tidbits for our new article entitled, **"Did You Know"** call the church office by Mondays at noon).

PRAYER SEMINAR
HERE!
FEBRUARY 1, 1998
Afternoon
Rev. Maribeth Blackman
(DHM staff)
???? call Kris Ohneck
(home 447-2833) (work 461-2883)

SERVING DECEMBER 14

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. J. Church & J. Ohneck
10:45 a.m. D. Heimann & C. Hatten

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. M. Crouse, M. Mullen, J. Ott, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. C. Falbe, J. Franklin, L. Heimann, M. McDougle, O. McDougle, K. Scott, L. Stover, L. Vandergriff,

COMMUNION PREPARATION DECEMBER 14

J. Ott, L. McFarland, E. Rieke

LAY READERS

8:15 a.m. Sue Knuckles
10:45 a.m.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Charles & Jean McGrew

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

8:15 a.m. Bob & Marty Bier
10:45 a.m. Brey Family

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 13-31

Dan Mory(13), Erin Brosey(16), Amy Zimmerman(16), Graham Baughman(17), Jacob Smelser(18), Tim Knuckles(19), Lindsay Medlin(18), Diana Blomeke(20), Sara Brey(20), Tammy Ott(20), Mickieann Martz(22), Jacob Quinn(23), **Bill Crouse(24)(91 years)**, Michael O'Laughlin(24), Wardell Bradford(25), Elizabeth Dull(26), Carolyn Falbe(26), Tara Grier(27), Marsha Hackenberg(27), Michele Reeves(27), Paul Fisher(28), John Mathis(28), Sarah Smith(28), Lucille Branstrator(29), Todd McBride(31)

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP ATTENTION!

Remember baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping this weekend & next! Have YOU signed up? Be There!

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Tidings

DECEMBER 17, 1997 Volume 54, No. 41

Christmas Worship at First Christian

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

Morning Worship at
8:15 and 10:45 A.M.
Sermon: "Beams From the Advent Star:
The Ray of Joy"

9:30 A.M.
Church School Classes for All Ages

CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 P.M. Family
Christmas Eve Worship

The children of the church will help tell the story
of
Jesus' birth through pageantry and song

11:00 P.M. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion

Join with other members of your
church family as we celebrate again
God's coming to us
in
Jesus Christ our Lord!

Interim Minister: Rev. Bill M. Riggs
Interim Associate Minister: Rev. George Bruckman
4800 S. Calhoun Street Ft. Wayne, IN 46807 744-3239

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

What a wonderful Advent week-end at First Christian Church! So many of our members, young and old alike were involved in the "Walk to Bethlehem." In addition to those who shared in the pageantry of the two evenings, many more were involved in "behind the scenes," activities such as planning, recruiting, making costumes, locating sheep, goats and a donkey, creating the Bethlehem Market, serving refreshments, leading worship etc., etc. It was good to hear so many expressions of appreciation from those who shared in the event. It is a wonderful gift to our community and I hope it will continue to be an important Advent ministry of First Christian for years to come.

This Sunday will be observed as "Christmas Sunday" at First Christian Church. I will be lifting up the theme of joy as we worship on Sunday morning. The final sermon in the Advent Series, "Beams From the Advent Star" will focus on the ray of joy which touches our lives in so many ways and illumines the pathway of our continuing journey of faith.

We will have two worship experiences on Christmas Eve. The **7:00 p.m.** service is designed especially for families and the children of the church will help us reclaim some of the magic of Christmas as they share in the worship during this service. We will have the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at **11:00 p.m.** At that service we will sing some of the great music of Christmas, share in some reflections of the coming of Christ into our world, share in the symbolic lighting of candles and conclude with the celebration of the communion of the Lord's Supper.

Plan to share in these special worship services. Become reflectors of the great themes of hope, peace, love and joy as you worship God, celebrate anew the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and bear witness to fuller, richer meanings of this season.

Shalom,

Pastor Bill

Come Home For Christmas!

Watch "Walk to Bethlehem" on Public TV!

Members of First Christian can relive the inspiration of our "Walk to Bethlehem" right up until Christmas Day, even though this year's walk is over.

Some members of the cast of "Walk to Bethlehem" have taped a 30 minute program for public access TV (Cable Channel 10). The program will be shown 5 times between now and Christmas. Watch for it and let others know about it!

Schedule for "Walk to Bethlehem" segment on Cable Channel 10:

Thursday, December 18:	10:30 P.M.
Friday, December 19:	11:30 A.M.
Saturday, December 20:	7:30 P.M.
Wednesday, December 24	6:00 P.M.
Thursday, December 25	6:00 P.M.

Come Home For Christmas!

Memories of Walk to Bethlehem

What are your most vivid memories of "Walk to Bethlehem" 1997? Mine include the angels in Scene I freezing to death on Friday night, the littlest angel in scene III on Saturday night bouncing in excitement to Gloria and the woman "tourist" who returned on Saturday and brought her husband. More than 85 people participated and made it all possible. Let's not forget them! What do you remember?

Sunday, December 21, 1997 there will be 2 showings of the video that Angie Quinn made Saturday night, December 14. It will also include a brief portion of Friday night's Walk. The video will be shown in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. and immediately following the 10:45 Worship Service.

	Attendance	Budget Needs	Actual Giving
Sunday School	63		
December 7	183	$3,523.88	$8,060.33
Year-to-date	172	$172,670.00	$160,104.37

What's Going On?

The First Christian Church Board of Directors has contracted with K. Brynolf Lyon, Professor at CTS, for a consultation with the Elders and the Search Committee as part of the process to call a senior Minister for the Church. Dr. Lyon will meet with these groups on January 6 and will prepare a report for the church.

The congregation will be invited to participate in an informal small group process directed by Interim Pastor Riggs. This will be a time to communicate your hopes and concerns as the church makes plans for the work that lies ahead. Pastor Riggs will compile the results of these meetings and prepare a report for the church. This will be useful in the process of calling a new minister. I expect that these meetings will be conducted before the middle of February.

I want to thank everyone who helped make the "Walk to Bethlehem" a success again this year. Sharing the Christmas message with our neighbors and to each other is a wonderful gift. May your Christmas this year be filled with Joy and Thanksgiving.

Roger Moll
Board Moderator

Attention Christmas Shoppers!

ONLY 2 MORE DAYS!

Presents Wrapped?
Shopping Done?

No? YOU NEED HELP!

For only two more days baby-sitting and gift wrapping will be available thanks to the First Christian Youth. Don't miss your chance!

This Saturday & Sunday 1-5 pm

Rates will be:
$1.00/hour per child
$.50 per package wrapped
Snacks & drinks will be provided.

Come & Bring All Your Friends!

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

These are just a few lines to thank you so much for the concern you showed about our brake problem. Thanks to God! we found that the lines were only frozen and just by adding some brakeline antifreeze the problem was taken care of. Again, Thanks to God!

I also wanted to tell you, brothers & sisters, that I areally enjoy being at your church. May God bless you all and give you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jessie H. & Tonya Lyn Elias

What Do They Do?

Stewardship Committee

1 The members of this committee shall consist of the chairperson and at least eight (8), but not more than twelve (12), persons. The chairperson shall select the committee members in consultation with the Lay Leadership Committee. Committee members shall serve for a two year period with members serving no more than two consecutive terms without an interval of one year.

2 Members of this committee shall be selected on the basis of their commitment to Christ as expressed in personal stewardship, ability to handle stewardship records, and ability to stimulate stewardship in the congregation.

3 Functions of committee

a Develop on effective and coordinated program of stewardship for the entire church expressed in terms of goal and objectives.

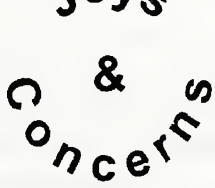
b Initiate and recommend a program which will stimulate interest and participation in the total stewardship ministry of the congregation.

d Promote various aspects of Christian stewardship such as family budgeting, wills, tithing and service projects.

e Recommend procedures for interpreting the total program of the congregation and for enlisting the financial participation of all members

f Provide for annual evaluation and reassessment of goals and objectives.

Cherishing memories of a life well lived and confident of an eternal triumph achieved, we nevertheless sorrow at the death of Velma Hechler in Fort Wayne on Saturday, December 13 and offer our sympathy and prayers to her family.



Joy that so many were able to be blessed by our "Walk to Bethlehem."

Joan Franklin had surgery on her knee this Monday. Pray for her speedy recovery.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:45-6:00 p.m. Adventure Club

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal with Philharmonic Orchestra

5:30 p.m. Carillon Rehearsal

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

1:00 p.m. Choirs Rehearse

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping

3:00-5:00 pm Amy Vachon Student Recital

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Chancel Choir Sings

8:15 a.m. First Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10.45 a.m. Second Worship Service

Coffee Fellowship

1:00-5:00 p.m. Youth Baby-sitting & Gift Wrapping

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:30 p.m. Young Adult Group

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

REQUISITIONS PICKED UP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Family Worship Service

11:00 p.m. Worship & Candlelight Communion

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

May the Son Shine throughout your Christmas Day!

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Community Concert

David Borsvold, Conductor

William Skoog, Guest Conductor

THIS Sunday, December 21, 1997

3:00 p.m.

Faith United Methodist Church

Jack Scott, Pastor

207 East Dewald Street

(Corner of Clinton & Dewald)

Free Admission

Featuring * Faith United Methodist Church Choir

*** First Christian Church Choir**

* Turner Chapel A.M.E.Choir

* IPFW University Singers

* River City Rhythm Men's Chorus.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for donation to Community Harvest Food Bank

PLEASE NOTE!

If your address or zip code changes please let the church office know as soon as possible. Each time a *Tidings* is returned because the address is not correct it costs the church at least 46¢. The Post Office also requests that we keep the zip codes current - they even say we should call every person to verify their zip code before each mailing. Please save your church the money and hassle by letting us know as soon as you know. Thank You!

DMA Big Birthday Bash

Tuesday, January 6, 1998
12:00 Noon
Carry-In

We will celebrate everybody's birthday, but especially Dianne Dunn's birthday for this will be a fare-well for her as she leaves for ministry in the Church of God in Celina, Ohio.

NOTE: Mark your calendar for the second Tuesday(not the 1st) in February & March.

JANUARY CALENDAR DATES DUE NOW!

If you want meetings or activities noted on the January calendar please make sure the secretary has them **ASAP**. We would like to have the calendar ready by **Friday** so it can be mailed before the new year. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW ?

***Did you know*.....**that Nelly the donkey got loose in the parking lot on Saturday? She somehow managed to get her rope untied. Dave Kreisher caught her.

***Did you know*.....**that Charlie Hatten & Dick Mey had to help the farmer chase the sheep down before they could bring them here? It is said that since they've learned to rustle sheep, they will be available for hire - IF you provide them ponies and lassos.

***Did you know*.....**that Barb Rumpel was called the head angel in an interview?

***Did you know*.....**that many people commented that this year's Walk to Bethlehem was the best yet? Congratulations on a job well done, on a ministry well carried out!

***Did you know*.....**that we still need a small black & white TV for our security system?

Come Home for Christmas!

SERVING DECEMBER 21

ELDERS

8:15 a.m. B. Bier & E. Conrad
10:45 a.m. S. Hayes & C. McGrew

DIACONATE & GREETERS

8:15 a.m. J. Arnold, M. Bier, J. Ott, D. Schuricht
10:45 a.m. G. Baitz, J. Baitz, D. Bohlen, J. Bohlen, S. Brickley, G. Cole, C. Deck, L. McFarland, R. Wise

COMMUNION PREPARATION DECEMBER 21 & 28

D. Schuricht, S. Brickley, G. Cole

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

K. Cron & B. Proegler, K. Ohneck & S. Brey, C. Hatten & L. Brey, B. Widmer & M. Deck

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER 21-31

Mickieann Martz(22), Jacob Quinn(23), **Bill Crouse(24)(91 years)**, Michael O'Laughlin(24), Wardell Bradford(25), Elizabeth Dull(26), Carolyn Falbe(26), Tara Grier(27), Marsha Hackenberg(27), Michele Reeves(27), Paul Fisher(28), John Mathis(28), Sarah Smith(28), Lucille Branstrator(29), Todd McBride(31)

LAY READERS

8:15 a.m. Marty Bier

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Estel & Lori Vandergriff

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

8:15 a.m. Jack & Janet Weicker
10:45 a.m. Richard & Judy Mey, Arionna Rousch

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